

THE TIMES



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Brown splashes out £40bn

Gamble on extra cash for health and schools

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GORDON BROWN dramatically released the brake on spending yesterday by announcing an extra £40 billion for health and education over the next three years, the biggest investment for the two services in their history.

The Chancellor delighted Labour MPs when he said that total government spending would increase by an extra £57 billion to £390 billion by the time of the next election. But the Tories promptly accused him of losing control of public expenditure.

He handed out far larger sums than expected to schools and the health service, and also unveiled significant increases for public transport, the fight against crime, housing renovation and even overseas aid. Then he added a populist touch by scrapping charges for eye tests for pensioners, promising a guaranteed minimum income for the elderly, and pledging new help for museums, art galleries and sport.

For Labour MPs, restless after the Government's adherence for two years to Conservative spending plans, the decision to cast aside new Labour's image of frugality came as a relief and a senior Cabinet minister said: "They have been holding their breath for 15 months. Now they can go back to their constituencies and say 'this is what we are doing'."

Mr Brown, however, has clearly gambled. He has gambled that the economy will continue to grow and give him the revenues needed to finance his extra spending. And he has gambled that the sums allocated to the services will not be swallowed up by wage awards. A source close to him admitted that if either went wrong he could have difficulty meeting his targets.

The potential for trouble was underlined by union leaders' reactions to the public sector pay squeeze. Rodney Bickersstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said that the Government appeared to have a grudge against "second class" public sector workers. And John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, accused the Government of asking low-paid workers to pay for its election pledges. That was unjust and unfair.

WINNERS AND LOSERS	
Education	£10.0bn
Health	£10.0bn
Transport	£2.0bn
Home Office	£1.1bn
Overseas aid	£0.9bn
Defence	-\$0.5bn
Legal aid	-\$0.05bn
Agriculture	-\$0.1bn



"You'd have thought they would have spent something on better weather"

Mr Brown's own Treasury office: And he made plain that the new money would be conditional upon the services achieving reforms demanded by the Government. Every department is being required to make efficiency savings of between 3 and 10 per cent, and a new Cabinet committee to hold spending ministers to account was also confirmed.

Tony Blair has told the review bodies which set the pay of 1.3 million public sector workers have been told that they must make awards consistent with the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent and government sources indicated they had responded favourably to the idea.

Mr Brown insisted that over the parliament, overall spending would grow by 1.75 per cent of GDP, compared with the 2.5 per cent of the last Parliament. That is mainly because of the squeeze in the first two years and it is clear that with £10 billion extra earmarked for education an £8.5 billion for health in the year before the next election, minds at the top of the Government are already set on winning a second term.

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, told Mr Brown that he had switched from two years of control to three years of uncontrolled spending. Labour MPs might ring the bells today but they would bring their hands later on.

In the lengthy bartering over funds, the Prime Minister's commitment to education and Mr Brown's to health had been the key factors in ensuring such big handouts for David Blunkett and Frank Dobson, who won more than the other 19 government departments put together. Education spending over the next three years will rise by an average of 5.1 per cent a year, and health by 4.7 per cent. For

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Gordon Brown going to meet Cabinet colleagues at 10 Downing Street yesterday

Bishop's anger at 'saddest of sad funerals'

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE presiding Bishop called it the "saddest of sad funerals" and even by Northern Ireland's grim standards that was true.

The white coffins of the three Quinn brothers, burned alive in the sectarian arson attack on their Ballymooney home, were too small for the normal contingent of six pallbearers.

Eleven-year-old Richard's coffin was slightly bigger than his ten-year-old brother Mark's, which was itself slightly bigger than nine-year-old Jason's. On each was struck a smiling picture.

John Dillon, the boys' natural father, wept and stroked the coffins' sides as he led the long cortege towards the church. Chrissie Quinn, their mother, followed a few yards behind, her head bowed with grief.

Beside her and also crying was her only surviving son, Lee, 12, who was staying with his grandmother the night his home was petrol-bombed. "In loving memory of my little angels, Granny Irene," read the message on one of the wreaths left by the thousands of Catholic and Protestant mourners.

The Most Rev Patrick Walsh, Bishop of Down and Connor, used the funeral to condemn political and community leaders who have been fomenting hatred and violence during the Drumcree stand-off.

"The airwaves, the printed page, have been saturated with noises — strident, harsh, discordant noises — carrying words of hatred, of incitement, of recrimination, words not found in the vocabulary of Christianity," he told the huge congregation gathered in and around the Church of Our Lady and St Patrick — itself recently attacked by an arsonist.

"The weapons of hate-

filled words inevitably fuel weapons of murderous destruction. Indeed how true are the words of the Psalm: 'Their teeth are stings and arrows, their tongues sharpened swords,'" he said.

The Rev Ian Paisley, the local MP, was not present, but during a visit to Drumcree the previous night he had exhorted the small rump of hardline Orangemen remaining there to keep the protest going. He denied any link between the stand-off and the murders.

The murders have brought



Chrissie Quinn at her sons' funeral yesterday

Northern Ireland to its senses just as it was descending into anarchy. Last night's *Belfast Telegraph* devoted its entire front-page to the funeral, using black-and-white photographs only beneath the headline: "Ulster's anguish".

As the peace process has progressed, often painfully slowly, each dreadful funeral of this sort has been accompanied by fervent hopes that it will be the last. Sadly it never is.

Shared sorrow, page 11

Falling inflation pushes up shares

By Alasdair Murray

INFLATION fell sharply back towards the Government's target level in June, raising City hopes that interest rates have now reached their peak.

The measure of inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, declined from 3.2 per cent in May to 2.8 per cent last month — although it remains above the target level of 2.5 per cent. Headline inflation, which is used for wage settlements, also declined from 4.2 per cent in May to 3.7 per cent.

Analysts said that the data, which closely follows weak consumer spending figures, made it increasingly likely that the Bank of England will not need to raise rates. Economists say that the Chancellor's ambitious plans for health and education

Robinson in clear over Maxwell fee

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the Treasury minister, will today be cleared by a Commons investigation of failing to register a £200,000 payment from the late Robert Maxwell. The minister, who claimed that the disputed fee from Hollis Industries was an accounting error, made a plea of innocence in a letter to each member of the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee. He also offered to pay for a £20,000 audit of the Maxwell books to try to locate the missing money. Hollis Industries went out of business in 1991. But the all-party committee rejected his offer.

Mr Robinson, a close ally of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is not expected to emerge unscathed from the six-month inquiry into his string of lucrative directorships. He is expected to be rebuked for a breach of Parliament's rules in failing to reveal another paid directorship in the register of MPs' interests. The Tories will seize on the slightest criticism from the committee to demand the resignation of the Paymaster General after Tony Blair declared last week that all transgressors would be "out on their ear".

Bowls image undertaken

The game of bowls which is trying to project itself as a pastime for young people, has a new sponsor for its English Women's Championships — Golden Charter, Britain's largest funeral planning network. Previous sponsors have included Saga and Bupa Care Homes. Page 46

Lords agree to fees compromise

The confrontation between the House of Lords and the Government over student tuition fees ended amid dramatic scenes yesterday when a last minute compromise was agreed involving concessions on both sides. Page 2

Silent reproach

A coroner in Kent yesterday accused French investigators of erecting a wall of silence over a British tourist kicked to death by a rollerskating gang in Paris. Page 3

BBC turns on the rainforest in N7

By Raymond Snoddy and Carol Midgley

IT WAS billed as Radio 3's tribute to nature — a series of programmes consisting of nothing but sounds of wind, rain, birds singing and waves crashing. But, yesterday, what listeners were told was the soothing noise of a downpour in a tropical rainforest was unveiled as something rather less exotic — a domestic shower in a bathroom in north London.

Bob Geldof admitted Radio 3's guilty secret at the annual Radio Academy Festival in Birmingham. He said the programme — an example of innovative, imaginative radio — had been so admired that it won a prize at the New York Radio Awards. The programme, entitled *Rainfall*, was made by Sir Bob's production company, Planet 24, for Radio 3's series of "ambient sounds" broadcast through the night to help

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The biggest, loudest, smash-hit since the one that went boom

Not for years has a Chancellor shot as many Opposition foxes in a single exultant Commons statement. Gordon Brown was crisper, government smiles sunnier and the faces opposite glummer than new MPs have ever seen. Not for years has a Chancellor had a better afternoon, or his Shadow a worse one.

Not for ten years. "The Chamber was knee-deep in shot foxes." I remember writing here a decade ago, as a generous Chancellor opened up his Treasury chest, and all

the Opposition could do was gape while government MPs cheered. The occasion was Nigel Lawson's disastrous 1988 Budget.

The Chamber was certainly awash with shot foxes yesterday. As parliamentary theatre, the show was a smash-hit.

Such a hit that it was curious that the Prime Minister himself, in the front row, did not look as happy as the audience for whom he and his Chancellor had designed this multibillion-pound production: £21 billion for the NHS,

hooray! So why did Mr Blair look tense?

But that was a minor oddity: a small blot on the general joy — like the tiny handful of Labour faces, more thoughtful than ecstatic, amid the sea of happy theatregoers behind Gordon Brown, laughing, cheering and pointing mocking fingers at the silent Tories opposite.

Mr Brown's script, his best-received yet, repays textual analysis. In politics, as in car-salesmanship or the exchange of lovers' vows, it is a rule not often confounded that the



words to which a speaker most persistently returns indicate the assurances of which he is most unsure. I kept a count of key recurring concepts.

Discipline (like tough) occurred three times; sustainable four; prudence six; long-term seven; modern eight; efficiency ten; target 13; and reform 22. New cropped up 26 times.

The Chancellor was also much-given to the term "investment", which he seemed to prefer to "spending", let alone "subsidy".

We may conclude that serious worries exist, not least in the mind of the speaker himself, that what the statement foreshadows may prove undisciplined, lax, unsustainable, imprudent, short-term,

inefficient, untargeted and un-reconstructed; and may drift into subsidy rather than investment. Mr Brown's almost embarrassing insistence on its newness gives rise to nervousness lest it prove all too familiar.

But his supporters loved every word. Interestingly (although the new spending on health was cheered lustily) two of the biggest yells of the afternoon were reserved for two of the cheapest promises: free eye tests for the elderly, and £44 million for the World Service of the BBC. These

items earned about 30 per cent of the hurrahs, but cost about 0.17 per cent of the money. Less principled Chancellors might have reflected that a canny choice of handouts might have raised more glory for less cash.

But that was not a point the Tories' Shadow Chancellor could make. There was hardly any point Francis Maude could make amid the noise. He struggled bleatingly to be heard.

His speech will be judged a flop and, in Commons terms, it was. But unlike many recent

Opposition responses, it was intelligent if a little dull. Mr Maude did not try to have his cake and eat it.

Instead he hit the bullet and said the Government was not funding these increases prudently, and public spending was a drift.

This is what the stupider kind of Tory forecast before the last election. It reminded me of Lord Melbourne: "What all the wise men promised has not happened — and what all the damned fools said would happen has come to pass."

Lords accept late Blunkett deal on student fees

The confrontation between the Lords and the Government over student tuition fees ended amid dramatic scenes yesterday when a late compromise was agreed involving concessions on both sides. A face-saving formula was hammered out during an afternoon of negotiations, with the Lords at one stage forced to adjourn unexpectedly while peers studied new proposals.

The dispute over the so-called "Scottish anomaly" contained in the Teaching and Higher Education Bill had threatened a constitutional crisis if the Lords had continued to challenge the will of the House of Commons. Under the anomaly, English, Welsh and Northern Irish students at Scottish universities would have to pay for four years of tuition fees while their Scottish counterparts would pay three.

Peers, with the backing of students and the universities, believed the anomaly was discriminatory and attempted three times to remove it from the Bill. On each occasion, the Lords were overruled by the Commons. If this ping-pong process had continued, there was a risk of the entire Bill being lost.

Peers agreed yesterday to accept the will of the Commons, but only after the Government all but pledged to abide by the recommendations of a new independent

review body that will be set up to examine the fees arrangements. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, offered the olive branch of a review in the Commons on Monday.

But in the face of a fresh Tory attempt to remove the anomaly, the Government tabled a late compromise at 3pm, giving statutory force to the review plans by including them on the face of the Bill. The review body will be set up in six months' time and will report by April 1, 2000.

A packed House of Lords adjourned for 45 minutes while peers huddled round scrutinising the wording of the new amendment. Senior peers rushed from office to office, clutching the latest drafts, as an acceptable formula was sorted out. When the House resumed, the Tories withdrew their latest amendment de-

manding that all students in Scotland be exempted from paying a fourth year of fees.

This marked a victory for those Tory peers who had been cautioning the Shadow Cabinet against pressing the issue again. But the Tories countered by tabling a fresh amendment which would have forced the Government by law to accept the findings of the review. They wanted the Bill to say the Government "shall" and not "may" accept the body's findings.

Baroness Blackstone, the Education Minister, refused to accept this but went as far as she could to imply that the Government would accept the review body's findings. "The Government will take this review seriously," she said. "This will be the strongest 'may' the Lords has ever seen."

"The Secretary of State will consider the recommendations that the independent review body makes very seriously indeed. But it would not be right to bind him or his successors to follow automatically any recommendations that a review might make. No government will write a blank cheque."

Mr Blunkett said: "I am very pleased indeed that common sense has prevailed and that the offer of a review has been seen for what it is — a genuine gesture to get everybody off the hook."



A warden at Buckingham Palace giving directions to garden party guests yesterday

Tories go on tour as Hague pledges wholesale change

WILLIAM HAGUE pledged yesterday that every Tory policy, with the exception of the single currency, was up for review as he launched the biggest meet-the-people campaign in the party's history.

No previous policy commitment was sacred, the Tory leader declared as he said that his Shadow Cabinet would travel thousands of miles and meet hundreds of thousands of people at more than 1,000 public meetings.

It was "the largest, most ambitious listening exercise" ever undertaken by a British political party, he said.

The "Listening to Britain" campaign has distinct echoes of the "Labour Listens" drive mounted by Tony Blair when he was in opposition. It led to the abandonment of many old Labour policies.

Mr Hague, speaking at the London headquarters of Imagination, the company that has carried out the design work on the Millennium Dome, said that the party would be prepared to dump unpopular policies.

But he denied that the consultation exercise would lead the Tories to ditch their principles. "The Tories believe in family life, a strong constitution, and the nation state. These beliefs will not be changed," he said. "Key Conservative principles like the importance of enterprise and low taxes will not change."

Nurses, teachers, business-

The Conservative Party has been put on red alert for a referendum on electoral reforms as early as next summer. Amid fears that a switch to proportional representation could wreck Conservative hopes of ever again forming a government, Michael Ancram, who takes over as party chairman in the autumn, has written to all his MPs pledging a campaign to retain the first-past-the-post system. Mr Ancram accuses the Prime Minister of "rigging" the independent commission on voting systems which is chaired by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords.

men, parents, policemen, farmers, the arts, the City, charities, churches and religious leaders will be targeted.

Mr Hague added: "Many people in the country are not yet ready to listen to the Conservative Party until they have seen the Conservative Party listen to them."

But on Europe Mr Hague was adamant that the exercise would endorse his opposition to a single currency for two Parliaments. "Everything I have seen from listening to people over the last year reinforces my conviction that what we say about the single currency is right and in tune with the instincts of the people of this country."

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Brown

Continued from page 1

the other departments, overall spending will rise by an average of only 1.8 per cent a year — which should be lower than growth in the economy as a whole.

Mr Brown described his health investment as "compassion in action" and the cash for schools as the true meaning of Labour's pledge to make "education, education and education" its priority.

The Chancellor also highlighted £2 billion public transport investment as well as a £3.6 billion allocation from capital receipts to renovate 1.5 million homes. Science research, with the help of £400 million from the Wellcome Foundation, also receives a £1.1 billion boost to provide modern facilities.

Mr Brown's munificence was such that an announcement of the first moves towards ending child benefit for 16 to 18 year olds went through quietly. There is to be a pilot scheme for new education maintenance allowances which, if successful, will be extended nationwide to replace child benefit for older teenagers and boost staying-on rates.

But while Labour MPs were delighted by the statement, Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, accused Mr Brown of risking spending the country into a recession. "The economy is already heading down through easily avoidable errors: manufacturing already in recession, six interest rate rises, 17 tax rises, unemployment rising, already and now your comprehensive failure on public finance being disguised through a series of accounting fiddles and deceptions," he said.

The Chancellor was relying on over-confident economic forecasts to justify higher spending, Mr Maude said. "Last year we saw the Robert Maxwell memorial budget with its vicious raid on pension funds. This year it's Robert Maxwell accounting. This isn't a Comprehensive Spending Review. It's a comprehensive spending failure."

For the Liberal Democrats, Malcolm Bruce welcomed Mr Brown's investment of part of his "war-chest" in health and education. But he said: "Today's settlement is no bonanza for public services when viewed over the whole Parliament."

Solicitor MP to face disciplinary tribunal

A member of the Shadow Cabinet is to appear before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal tomorrow to face a charge of professional misconduct. Gary Streeter, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, is accused of a breach of the Law Society's practice rules in his work as a solicitor with Foot & Bowden, a West Country firm.

The charges remain confidential until the day of the hearing, which takes place in public before the independent tribunal in Carey Street, Central London. Mr Streeter, who was not available for comment yesterday, is understood to be planning to admit the charge. The case, which a source close to Mr Streeter has described as "borderline" and one which could have been dealt with internally by the Law Society, may result in a reprimand.

Bomb plot charges

Three men and a woman were charged last night over last Friday's alleged terrorist bomb plot in London. The men, aged 19, 21 and 25, and the woman, 21, were charged with conspiracy to cause explosions, Scotland Yard said. The two younger men and the woman were also charged with possession of explosive substances. All are to appear at Woolwich Magistrates' Court, southeast London, this morning.

Arms-to-Africa deal

MPs on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee yesterday accepted a compromise that will give them access to confidential Foreign Office telegrams relating to the arms-to-Africa affair. They agreed to the terms proposed by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who offered members a summary of the contents after his initial refusal to hand over the telegrams sparked cross-party anger.

Gay barman's victory

A gay barman, who claimed his sacking from the Globe Theatre in London in 1994 amounted to sexual discrimination, has won the right to take his case back to an industrial tribunal. Lord Justice Ward and Sir Christopher Slade ruled at the Appeal Court that the tribunal must rule by comparing whether Paul Smith was treated less favourably as a homosexual man than a homosexual woman would have been.

Draper quits magazine

Derek Draper, the lobbyist at the centre of the "cash for access" controversy, confirmed last night that he was resigning as director of Progress, the magazine he founded. Mr Draper also disclosed in a letter to Lord Montague, the chairman of its trustees, that he was "in negotiations" about a book on lobbying. He is also to write a weekly political column for The Daily Telegraph.

Pupils clean school

Gillots School in Henley-on-Thames is to cut costs this summer by paying a dozen pupils aged 15 and 16 to clean the entire school. Pupils will earn £3.75 an hour and work for up to two weeks for the school, which has by law to conduct the annual clean-up. Pupils were said to be unenthusiastic about the work, but were convinced eventually by the financial rewards.

Children lose £15m after CSA blunders

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

ONE in four assessments by the Child Support Agency is wrong, and the mistakes by the agency mean that children are missing £15.8 million a year in maintenance payments from absent parents.

The scale of error in CSA assessments is so great that Sir John Bourne, the Comptroller and Auditor General, yesterday could not approve CSA accounts for last year.

He has qualified the accounts to MPs, saying that one in seven cases included an error of more than £1,000, and one in four assessments was wrong. A total of £4.8 million had also been overpaid by absent parents because of mistakes in the calculation of payments.

David Davis, the Tory chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, said: "The financial management by the CSA of the child support scheme continues to get worse." Mr Davis was also incensed that bad debts for the CSA stood at £1.4 billion and only a fraction was ever likely to be recovered.

In a report to MPs, Sir John accepted that the CSA was attempting to improve its record and that its caseload had doubled last year, but "errors are still being made," he said. "In addition, the Agency's past performance has left a legacy of error that continues to affect amounts being paid in respect of child maintenance." Sir John recognised that the Government intended to reform the CSA, but he promised to continue his monitoring of the work of the agency.

The publication of Sir John's accounts coincided with the Chancellor's statement on the Comprehensive Spending Review, raising eyebrows among MPs. It was suggested that the timing of the accounts was an attempt by the CSA to shift attention from their record. National Audit Office officials were also concerned by the publication time, but had no control in the decision.

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French accused of wall of silence over tourist death

Stephen Farrell on a widow's efforts to persuade Paris police to bring her husband's killers to justice

A CORONER yesterday accused French investigators of erecting a wall of silence over a British tourist kicked to death by a rollerskating gang in Paris.

Roderick Henderson, 54, a toolmaker from Swanley, Kent, died from head injuries last October after he was kicked between the eyes by a man wearing in-line skates while strolling along the Champs Elysee with his son and son-in-law.

Wearing suits and ties and looking for a taxi, the group were on a weekend trip to celebrate his birthday. Roger Hatch, Coroner for Northwest Kent, called on the Govern-

ment to push for more co-operation from the French authorities after hearing evidence from relatives. Kent police and a British pathologist that requests for information had met with little or no response from the Paris police and the examining magistrate responsible for the investigation.

Mr Henderson's widow, Eve, 51, has since contacted the family of Caroline Dickinson, the murdered Cornish school-girl, and other British relatives dissatisfied with French investigations. She told Dartford Coroner's Court that potential witnesses had never been interviewed, no appeal

notice was put up in the street and an inaccurate account was inserted in a French newspaper two months after his death.

She said the police had never contacted her directly and she had been told she had no right to see the file, to which no new information had been added since February.

Recording a verdict of unlawful killing, Mr Hatch said it was unfortunate that Mrs Henderson had been left largely to pursue her own inquiries with "very little co-operation at all" from the French authorities.

"I am aware that there have been steps taken by the British Foreign Office and the British Embassy in Paris. They have made inquiries on her behalf. They again have been met by a brick wall of virtual silence, as it were, as to what inquiries if any have been taking place," he said. "It is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. I can only express a hope that perhaps others in a position of government will hear what has been said and will take steps to prevent other similar incidents happening in the future."

The inquest was told that Mr and Mrs Henderson were among a family group of six who dined on a riverboat and went for a drink on the



Eve Henderson outside Dartford Coroner's Court. She plans to ask Robin Cook for help. "I am angry, not bitter"

Champs Elysee before the women returned to their hotel by taxi. Mr Henderson's son Scott, 29, and son-in-law Andrew Knapp, 34, said they had gone for drinks in a cafe and had left at 2.45am after a dispute with staff over the bill which police had resolved amicably.

They told the court that they had gone barely 30 metres when the gang struck in front of witnesses, then fled past the cafe where police had been standing less than a minute earlier. Mr Knapp said no

police had arrived by the time the ambulance came to take them to hospital and he was not interviewed until more than 48 hours later.

Mrs Henderson said that when she first tried to report the attack to police she was passed from one station to another and told at first it was a civil matter. She claimed that when she finally met the examining magistrate, Olivier Deparis, in February, he told her: "We have these gangs on the street. We don't know who they are." She told the court: "I

asked if there had been any previous incidents. He said: "We have searched the archives but Paris is a big place." I thought, "So is London but we manage."

Dr Peter Jerreat, a Home Office pathologist, said he had been given no access to French medical records and Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Dolten, of Kent police, told the court that he had "received no co-operation at all from the French authorities".

After the hearing Mrs Henderson said she was "totally

dissatisfied" with the French investigation and would approach the Foreign Office to break down the wall of "indifference". She said: "I am angry, I am not bitter. I shall continue to put pressure on Robin Cook. I just do not think that you can have an ordinary family that goes to France for the weekend and comes back without your husband."

Paul Burnley, her solicitor, said such attacks were common on the Champs Elysee but, to the family's knowledge, no one had ever been arrested.

Boyfriend 'wouldn't shower for fear of hypnotist'

By DEBORAH COLCUTT

THE girlfriend of Christopher Gates, who is claiming £250,000 damages from the hypnotist Paul McKenna, kept a diary of the four-year demise of her boyfriend's mental health, the High Court was told yesterday.

Beverly Gibbs, who was giving evidence on the second day of the hearing, kept details of everything from the changes in Mr Gates's personality and behaviour to their personal conversations.

Miss Gibbs, 29, began writing the diary in March 1994, two weeks after Mr Gates was hypnotised by Mr McKenna during one of his live stage appearances at the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Using the diary entries made by Miss Gibbs since the show, Anthony Scrivener, QC, for the prosecution, showed how her boyfriend's odd behaviour developed and he became like a helpless child. "I can see the sadness in his eyes and when he speaks I just want to cuddle him and tell him everything will be okay," one entry read.

Miss Gibbs described in court how Mr Gates, 30, a former furniture polisher, went from being "naturally reserved and calm" to being so scared he was unable to go upstairs and shower alone. "He thought if he went upstairs McKenna was waiting for him," Mr Gates, from High Wycombe, also imagined seeing "monsters at the window" and hearing voices.

The court was told that at about the time of Mr McKenna's show in 1994, Mr Gates had been told by his employers that they were making redundancies. It was also claimed that Mr Gates, who returned to work briefly after he was released from a psychiatric hospital where he was treated for schizophrenia, did not want to jeopardise his chances of qualifying for legal aid by earning too much.

Quoting from Miss Gibbs's diary which recorded a conversation with Mr Gates, Roger Henderson, for Mr McKenna, read out loud: "Chris does not want to work in case it damages his chances in court."

Furthermore the diary was kept, Mr Henderson claimed, for the benefit of preparing material for an interview with the *News of the World* which signed a £25,000 contract with the couple. He also suggested they linked Mr Gates's illness to the show only after the advice of a friend urging them to sue.

Mr McKenna denies negligence and causing Mr Gates's illness. The case continues.



Eve and Roderick Henderson pictured on the Paris trip

Carey's good intentions on the road to Hello!

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury surmounts the pinnacle of 20th-century social success today with a six-page colour spread in *Hello!* magazine.

Born and Dagenham-bred, Dr George Carey, 62, is pictured relaxing in his lumberjack shirt with his wife, Eileen, in Lambeth Palace, his London home by the Thames. Surrounded by photographs of their four children and seven grandchildren, Dr Carey confesses that his ideal epitaph would be a line adapted from the late Frank Sinatra: "I did it God's way."

Dr Carey did not receive any payment for his *Hello!* profile, which comes days before 800 bishops and archbishops from the worldwide Anglican communion gather at Canterbury for a ten-yearly

meeting. One picture, shot just days after the Careys' 38th wedding anniversary, shows them holding hands in defiance of the myth that relationships featured in the magazine break up afterwards under the so-called "curse of *Hello!*"

Dr Carey, whose 13th book, *Canterbury - Letters to the Future*, is published next week, says that he always listens to his wife's views on people but she never interferences in his work.

He does not believe in reincarnation but keeps an open mind on the existence of angels, he says. He emerges as an ardent royalist and firm supporter of the continuing establishment of the Church of England, of which the Queen is the Supreme Governor. Asked whether he believes the

monarchy should be scrapped, he says: "I should not like to think of the range of alternatives."

And he speaks of his grief at the death of the Princess of Wales. "I had enjoyed the conversations I had with her on many matters, including spiritual things. I'm sure I wasn't alone in the sense of loss," he says, adding that his favourite memory of her was speaking to her with Prince William while preparing for his confirmation.

Entitled to continue in the job until he is 70, Dr Carey is coy about speculation that he might go early. In retirement, the Careys will move to their Bristol flat but spend at least one third of the year helping parishes in the developing world.

Freed nurse faces fresh fraud claim

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Dundee nurse who was freed from a Saudi jail after being convicted for her part in the murder of a colleague has been reported by police to the procurator-fiscal amid fresh allegations of fraud.

Tayside Police confirmed that they had investigated claims that Lucille McLauchlan, 32, forged job references to secure her post at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex. References sent to Speedwell Nursing Agency were allegedly written on notepaper from Dundee Teaching Hospitals, which dismissed her for gross misconduct amid separate fraud allegations in 1996.

Ex-wife turns down £1m offer for Moore medals

By ADRIAN LEE

THE former wife of Bobby Moore has rejected a £1 million offer for his football medals which would have kept the unique collection in England.

Unless a compromise can be found, the trophies, including Moore's 1966 World Cup winner's medal, will be auctioned and could go to a private collector, or abroad. Tina Moore, the first wife of the former England captain who died five years ago from cancer, is seeking more than £2 million.

The bid was organised by a consortium representing English football and involved National Lottery funding. Although sympathetic to efforts to keep her late husband's medals in England - possibly at Wembley stadium - Mrs



Tina Moore: is seeking £2 million for medals

Moore told the consortium that their offer was nowhere near the true worth of the collection.

The National Football Museum, due to open in Preston next year, and the 20 Premiership clubs that backed the bid,

sought advice from two experts, who both valued the collection at less than £1 million.

But the gap reflects the difficulty in putting a price on football memorabilia. At an auction last week an England shirt worn by Roger Hunt in Moore's winning England team failed to meet its reserve price of £30,000.

Mrs Moore, who works in Miami, Florida, as a public relations consultant, wants to sell to safeguard the future of her children. The collection includes 43 England caps.

Kevin Moore, director of the Football Museum, said: "I don't feel this is dead. Mrs Moore has been very helpful and I think we need to give her more time."

Because of their value, the medals are kept in a London bank vault.

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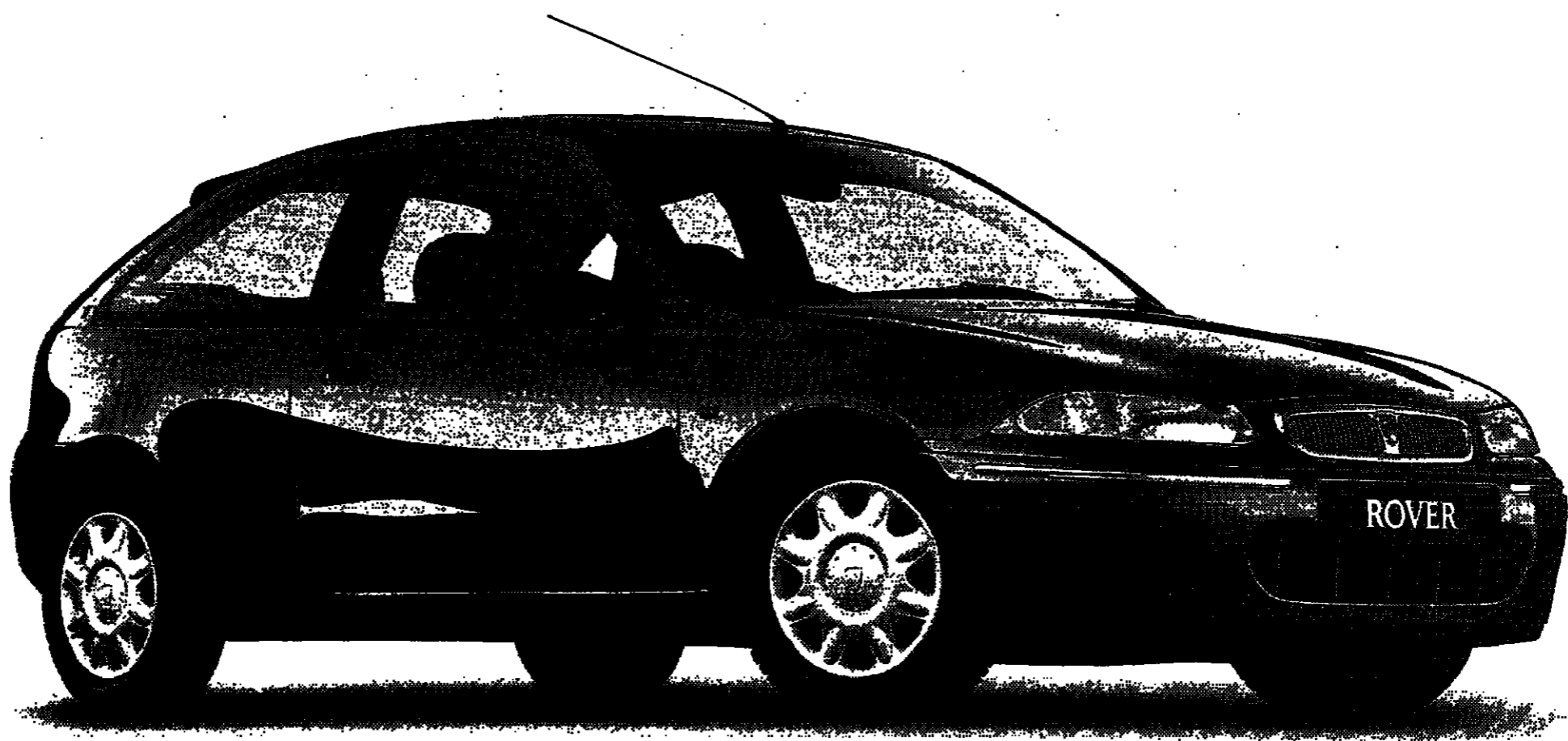
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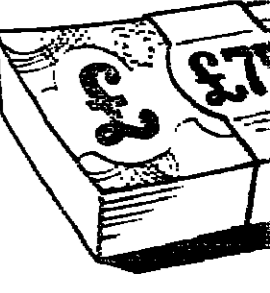
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Fashion? For some men, this is far too shocking

By GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

IN THE world of men's fashion, it was an exciting day. Women's fashion shows may be intended to shock, but menswear designers tread a more restrained path. Four buttons instead of three on a jacket is enough to blow the socks off some men, and shorter jackets are a shock to those males who think the whole purpose of a jacket is to disguise the size of their bottoms.

And so the first London Men's Fashion Week opened at the Café Royal in Regent Street yesterday, with younger designers leading the way. Ken Odimah, 34, based in Fulham, showed a collection billed as Steed Meets the Wild West. Avengers-inspired high-lapelled jackets in understated pinstripes gradually gave way to skinnier American styles with patch pockets. The look was more Tarantino

than John Wayne. Odimah's models swaggered rather than sa-shayed, tossing their stonions into the audience. This is wild by the standards of men's shows.

In a gesture towards the Loaded generation, they were accompanied by live women with bits of animal skins across their chest. The men were less exposed, though many of the suit jackets were riding high across the hips. Two buttons, three buttons, four buttons — anything went as long as suits had attitude.

Neil Adams, who established his own label in 1995, had a show called Burnt Out Car, which was less urban-jungle than it sounded. Plain short-sleeved shirts and straight, not-too-tight trousers were reminiscent of Prada, as were the low-shine fabrics and neutral stone and slate colours. Cropped trou-



Models on the catwalk at the Neil Adams show, Burnt Out Car, which was less urban-jungle than it sounded and clearly intended to have mainstream appeal

sers, shorts and "surf" shoes were as outlandish as it got in a show clearly intended to have mainstream commercial appeal, yet retain an understated edge.

Adams's originality is in the detail — erratic hand zigzagging, triple-top stitching. Some British labels with a low profile in this country enjoy considerable success abroad; Designworks, run by the creative team of Tamara and Max Plaskow, has 50 outlets in Japan but a much smaller number in the UK. Their show had an Eastern influence with wide-legged, paddyfield cropped-pants. There were trousers in dove grey and hooded jackets.

Also showing yesterday was the established Irish designer Paul Costelloe, who unveiled his younger line for Spring/Summer 1998, a mix of lightweight suiting in textured linens and mohair blends.

The success of this event will depend on more designers of Costelloe's ilk agreeing to show here. Among the buyers yesterday were representatives from Japan and the US stores Saks and Bloomingdale's. More top-name designers will need to come before the capital can establish itself as a commercial centre for menswear.

Childminder 'was cheerful' after baby died

By MIKE HORSNELL

A CHILDMINDER was "normal and cheerful" as she looked after a child less than 16 hours after the death of a baby in her care, a court was told yesterday.

Helen Stacey, 41, who denies murdering five-month-old Joseph Mackin by shaking him in a fit of temper, allegedly cared for Caroline Hibbs, 2, without a hint that anything was wrong.

Tracey Hibbs, Caroline's mother, said in a statement that she and her husband, James, an RAF worker, arrived at Mrs Stacey's home at about 8.20am on May 14 last year. The jury at Norwich Crown Court has been told that by then Mrs Stacey knew Joseph was dead. She was later arrested on May 17 while still caring for Caroline.

Mrs Hibbs, from North Walsham, Norfolk, said that she and her husband went into Mrs Stacey's house when they dropped Caroline off. "She seemed her normal relaxed self with no hint that there was anything wrong. We collected Caroline at 3.20pm and had coffee. Again she appeared perfectly normal and cheerful."

Mrs Hibbs said Caroline

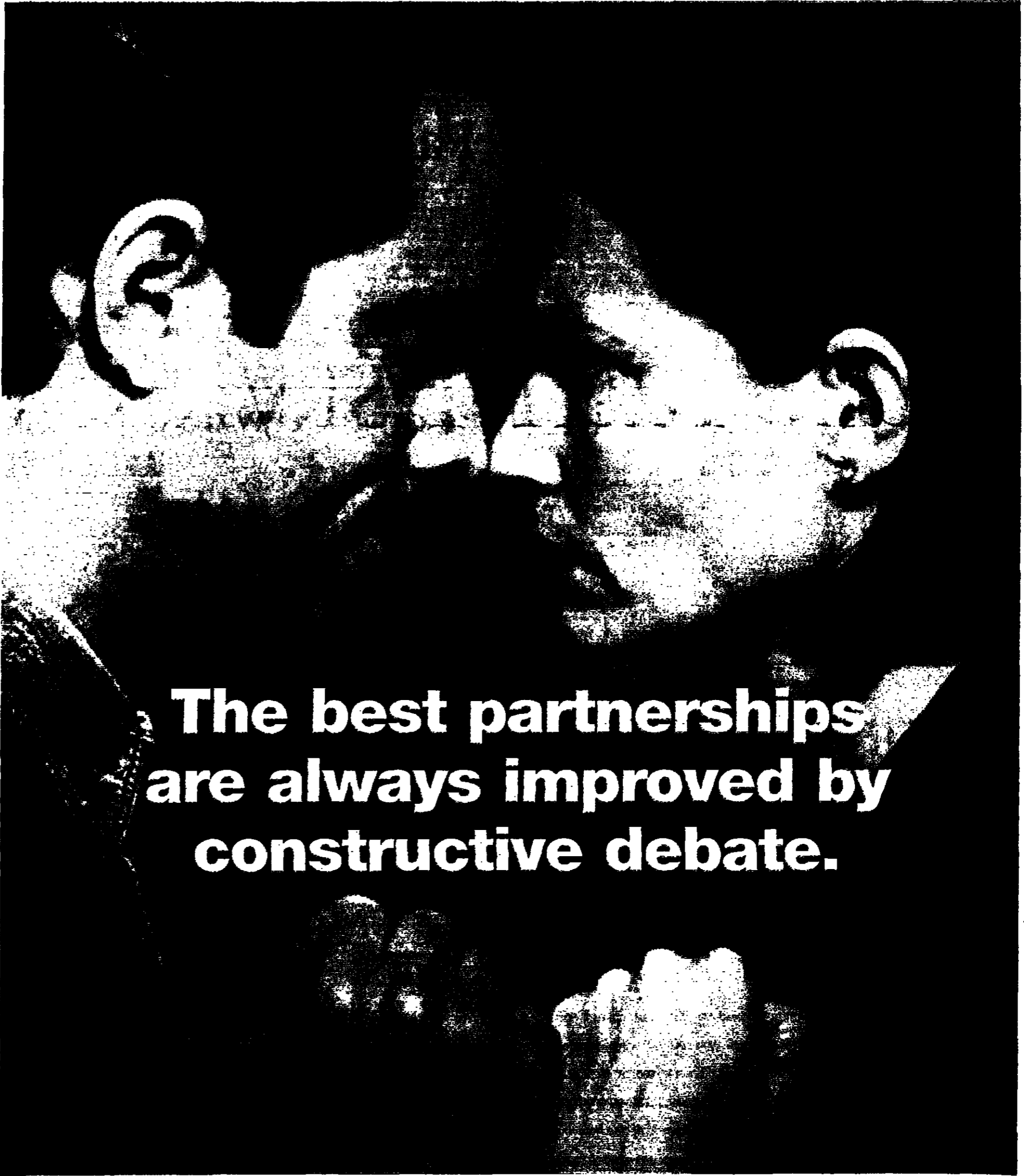
had spent 14 day-long sessions at Mrs Stacey's house in North Walsham and she "never had any cause for concern".

Michelle Holgate, a health visitor, told the second day of the trial that for the two days after Joseph's death she believed he had been a victim of sudden infant death syndrome, and went to see Mrs Stacey to console her. "I felt I had to go and see if she was all right. She said Joseph had been unsettled and crying. Helen Stacey was upset. She was crying and asking about the parents."

The court was told earlier that Joseph's brain injuries required the force equivalent to that suffered in a road traffic accident or a fall from the first floor of a building.

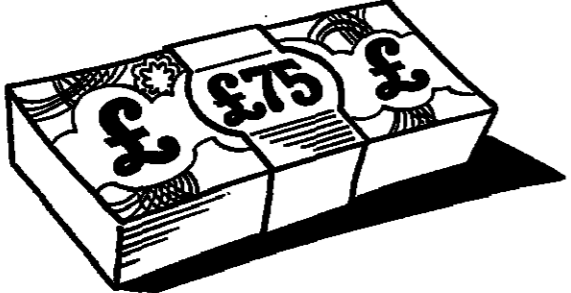
His father, Anthony Mackin, 32, an air traffic controller at RAF Coltishall, dabbed at his eyes and looked away as evidence of his injuries obtained at a postmortem examination were given. Dr Nathaniel Cary, a forensic pathologist at Papworth Hospital, said deep bruising to the back of the neck, consistent with being gripped and shaken, was found on the body.

The trial continues.



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SPENDING REVIEW

Pay plea greets £21bn NHS boost

'It is essential review bodies remain truly independent'

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH SERVICE

The Chancellor's 50th anniversary present for the NHS, an injection of £21 billion over three years, was welcomed by doctors and nurses, who immediately asked for a pay rise. Without better pay, they said, government hopes of keeping its promise to reduce waiting lists might be prejudiced by lack of staff to carry out operations.

The cash matches the amount the British Medical Association says is needed to bring the NHS up to levels of comparable Western countries. The £5 billion modernisation fund, ring-fenced to ensure it is spent on renovating crumbling buildings, is particularly welcome.

However, the thinly veiled warning in the Chancellor's statement that public wage settlements are to be even more strictly controlled has left health workers at all levels worried that they will lose in pay negotiations. "This is potentially one of the most exciting opportunities to revolutionise quality in the history of the NHS," Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said. "The £21 billion spent wisely will make an enormous impact."

"But it is essential that pay review bodies remain truly independent and that pay increases are not unfairly limited for public sector employees. If we don't tackle pay properly, the tragedy will be that this fantastic opportunity to improve the quality and level of care in the NHS will be wasted."

Ian Bogle, the new BMA chairman, said: "Improving health care depends crucially on improving the supply of skilled doctors and nurses for the NHS. Now is the time for

the Government to invest in a major expansion in the number of hospital consultants and general practitioners as an essential foundation for improving the quality of care. "On the subject of pay, I deplore what appears to be a unilateral change in the remit of our independent review body. Fair pay levels are an essential tool for recruiting, retaining and motivating doctors."

Unison, the main health service union, welcomed the extra money but said it was seeking urgent clarification about pay. "Our concern centres on the threat to the independence of the pay review bodies. It is important that the nurses and health professionals' pay review bodies are free to recommend fair rewards with affordability remaining the responsibility of Government," Bob Aberley,

Figures fiddled, says Widdecombe

Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, accused the Government of double counting in reaching the total of £21 billion for health care over the next three years. She said the true figure was scarcely half that amount.

The Government claimed the increase in spending for England was £17 billion of the £21 billion, she said. In fact, according to its own figures, the total would rise only £9 billion from £37 billion in the current financial year to £46 billion by 2001-2002, she claimed.

"Talk of a £17 billion increase in health spending is an outrageous fiddle," she told the Commons.

the general secretary, said. Management, too, was worried about pay levels. Stephen Thornton of the NHS Confederation, which represents health authorities and trusts, said the announcement was "far better than we had dared hope. To have received £21 billion is beyond our wildest dreams." But he said that the money must not just be used for the acute hospital service, but for other parts of the NHS, including primary care, community health services and mental health services.

"No one should be dazzled by the sheer size of the NHS budget and the presentational impact of a single figure to cover three years' expenditure," Karen Caines, director of the Institute of Health Service Management, said. Reducing waiting lists, refurbishing premises and investing in IT were important, but so were staff. "Being tough on public sector pay may backfire at a time when the NHS already faces a critical shortage of doctors and nurses and the Government is looking for productivity increases."

The money is meant to reduce waiting lists to 100,000 below the level they were at before the election and to deliver higher and more consistent standards of treatment. Hospitals and health authorities will be carefully watched to ensure that their performance is worthy of extra cash.

Hospitals will have to publish tables showing their success rates. Targets aimed at cutting out inefficiencies in management are to be set, with the aim of pruning £1 billion out of NHS bureaucracy by the end of this Parliament. The targets are to be announced by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, tomorrow when he will flesh out how the new money is to be spent.



Anya Pytkkanen who came to Britain for higher pay and a more secure job than she could find in Finland

Pay lures nurses to Britain

Inner-city hospital hit by staff shortages finds ready recruits in Finland

By ALEX O'CONNELL

ANNYA PYTKKANEN left Helsinki for Britain a year ago to work in an inner-city hospital with one of the most severe nursing recruitment problems in Britain.

Finnish nurses are particularly sought after because they do not require EU work permits and Finland has a surplus of well-trained hospital staff.

Speaking English and trained to a

standard which is comparable to the best in Britain, Miss Pytkkanen was lured here by higher pay and a more secure job than she could find at home. Miss Pytkkanen, 23, is one of 50 Finnish nurses at the 450-bed Homerton Hospital in East London. She earns £1,000 a month, which is £200 more than she can get in Helsinki, although she finds the cost of living in London is high.

"Nurses here don't complain about the money," she said. "If they moan they

do it after work, because we are too busy and really short-staffed."

She misses the greater freedom of working on wards in Finland but overall she is glad she came. "We were made very welcome," she said. "I came over here for language and experience."

Turnover at Homerton is high. Of the 50 to 100 Finnish nurses employed at any one time, 75 per cent leave at the end of their first year. Those who stay on have usually met a British partner.

Labour MPs hail return of free eye tests

PENSIONERS

By MARK HENDERSON

PENSIONERS will be among the main beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Spending Review. Eye tests for the over-60s will be free once more, every elderly person or couple will have a guaranteed income and there will be a £2.5 billion package of aid for poor pensioners, including help with fuel bills, the Chancellor said.

Under the Transport White Paper to be published next week, pensioners are expected to be offered greater discounts on bus and train travel, and to benefit from moves to improve facilities for pedestrians.

To loud cheers from the Labour benches, Gordon Brown told the Commons that sight tests for the over-60s, introduced by the Conservatives in 1989, would go. The tests were needed to preserve sight and protect against disease, he said.

The guaranteed income, likely to be set initially at £16 a week for couples and £75 for single people, will be among measures to be announced on Friday by the Social Security Secretary, Mr Brown said. Harriet Harman will also set out plans for winter fuel payments, and announce changes to income support and income tax for pensioners.

Income support is expected to rise for the poorest pensioners, and there will also be measures to ensure that the million eligible pensioners who do not currently claim the benefit receive it.

A level of income will be specified below which no pensioner will have to pay income tax. "As a result of our proposals, thousands of pensioners will be relieved from poverty," Mr Brown said.

Campaigners for the elderly cautiously welcomed the package. Sally Greengross, of Age Concern, challenged Mr Brown to guarantee pensioners an income of at least £150 a week. Mervyn Kenyon, of Help the Aged, said: "Pensioners are beginning to get serious attention at last. However, this spending review should not be judged by the goodies in the headlines. Its value will be if it enables spending departments to put fresh emphasis on older people's needs."

Ian Bruce, of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, said the scrapping of eye-test charges was a wise move that would allow older people to have a "vital health check".

Police face cuts for inefficiency

By STEWART TENDLER
AND RICHARD FORD

LAW AND ORDER

THE police have been warned they have two years to cut sickness rates, agree national spending policies on equipment and reduce waste. Otherwise they will face budget cuts under the Government's spending plans.

The warning to Britain's 43 chief constables comes as ministers grow increasingly impatient with the failure of some forces to take the advice of the

Audit Commission and Inspectorate of Constabulary and to make greater efficiency savings.

Under the spending review, police budgets in England and Wales will rise from £6.9 billion in 1998-1999 to £7.1 billion in 1999-2000, £7.3 billion in 2000-2001, and £7.6 billion in 2001-2002. But the review sends a message that forces must make efficiency savings

of 2 per cent a year. The Home Office said in a statement that the full increase in grants "may depend on satisfactory improvements in efficiency".

Chief constables acknowledged that the settlement was tough and the Labour leader of the Association of Police Authorities condemned it as "unrealistic".

Ruth Henig said: "The planned increase of 3 per cent a year would not even meet the unavoidable cost of rising

police pay or pension bills."

Home Office spending will rise from £6.8 billion in 1998-1999 to £7.9 billion in 2001-2002, with an increase in real terms in 1999-2000 to reflect that it is taking over responsibility for supporting asylum seekers from the Health and Social Security departments.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is promising more money for crime prevention initiatives. The fight against drugs is to receive an additional £188 million.

'New deal' for poor estates

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

WELFARE

BRITAIN'S most deprived and crime-ridden housing estates are to benefit from investment of £800 million spread over three years under a New Deal for Communities, the Chancellor announced.

The money is likely to be spent on education, training and pump-priming for new businesses and community enterprises that can create

employment for the thousands of households in run-down areas where there is no work and little hope. Gordon Brown said he hoped the initiative would "help the unemployed become the self-employed."

A key aim will be to provide greater co-ordination between social landlords, such as local authorities and housing associations, and regeneration projects. More details will be

announced on Friday. Susan Littlemore, a spokeswoman for the housing charity Shelter, welcomed the move to link housing with economic and social regeneration. "Some of our worst estates look more like waste land than places where people live," she said.

An extra £3.6 billion is to be spent on repairing and renovating run-down and vacant council homes. Experts said the result would help to take the pressure off the green belt and rural sites.

Museums and galleries to benefit the most

THE ARTS

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to invest an extra £290 million over the next three years in the arts and sport, with the lion's share going to museums and galleries.

The figure represents a real increase of 5.5 per cent, the Chancellor said, noting how the money was available "as a result of cutting bureaucracy and quagmires". The news was greeted with disbelief from the arts sector, whose repeated cries for help have long sounded like a broken record.

Extra money is to be used to widen access to museums and galleries, "recognising their potential for enhancing education, combating social exclusion and promoting urban regeneration".

Jennifer Edwards, director of the National Campaign for the Arts, said that the percentage increase might even represent a more generous rise than the Government had calculated. Depending on the rate of inflation, arts spending could be up by more than 6 per cent, she said. "It is a nice change to have a real terms increase. The arts in Britain have lost £35.1 million over the past six years." Earlier this week the campaign reported regional theatres as "in crisis" with 33 repertory companies facing deficits totalling more than £10 million.

"This is going to transform things", Ms Edwards said. "It will help with the loss that

many areas have suffered over the last few years. I am delighted that live arts and museums are a top priority."

However, she expressed some concern that there was no reference to "full access": "There is a difference between easier access and free access."

Miss Edwards welcomed the Government's commitment to giving companies a sound financial basis. "But the arts is a wide world. There are a lot of small companies which are also vital to the livelihood of the arts. I hope they are as well looked after."

Museum directors and curators have long given warnings of the perils of changing. The National Art Collections Fund is among many that have argued against it. David Barrie, director of the fund, said: "This sounds like a breakthrough, and Chris Smith is to be congratulated for persuading his Cabinet colleagues of the vital importance of the arts. The concerted campaigning effort has paid dividends, and we are particularly delighted that improved access to museums and galleries has been given such a high priority."

There has been widespread evidence that charges sharply reduce the number of visitors. Within six months of introducing them, Brockknock Museum in Broom, Powys, saw a 40 per cent drop in people visiting its fine collection of Roman artefacts; and Ipswich's museum saw admissions drop by 61 per cent with its £2 entry fee.

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SPENDING REVIEW

Brown's generosity is not all it seems

'Public spending statements are like the world of Lewis Carroll'

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

GORDON BROWN thinks New Labour but talks Old Labour. He was cheered in the Commons for sounding Old Labour in his apparent generosity on public spending. The longer-term test will be how far it is really New Labour in implementation.

Public spending statements are like the world of Lewis Carroll. Nothing is quite what it seems. The cat's smile vanishes on closer inspection. Mr Brown added together increases over three years to produce his global figures of £19 billion more for education and over £20 billion more for health, which so delighted Labour MPs. This is misleading since it represents triple counting and takes no account of inflation. The rise in NHS spending is only little more than is needed to maintain standards of provision.

However, even when the hype is stripped out, total public spending is planned to rise more rapidly after the recent tight squeeze. This will be concentrated on schools and the NHS, reflecting the personal commitments of Tony Blair

and Mr Brown respectively. Revealingly, the largest annual increase in total spending is in the likely election year of 2001-02.

Yet the Chancellor was emphatic yesterday that he was not writing a blank cheque and that departments would have to meet tight performance targets. Several times yesterday, it appeared as if he was the chief executive of New Labour and that his Cabinet colleagues were merely directors of subsidiaries responsible to him for how they spent his money.

Yet it all seemed too good to be true. While the winners are obvious, there are few apparent losers. Mr Brown has highlighted the Government's priorities. But the review has failed to identify significant savings elsewhere. The redistribution from welfare to education which Mr Blair promised before the election has not been

achieved. The money will come partly from demanding efficiency targets, and big sales of surplus assets, while public sector pay review bodies will have to take account of spending limits, the inflation target and efficiency. So public sector unions will be protesting before long.

The main hole in the review is the failure to turn round the social security juggernaut. Its growth may be slower than in the last Parliament, but that is only thanks to lower unemployment (which may not last). The package is dependent on avoiding a recession. If there is a hard rather than a soft landing, then yesterday's figures will have to be revised, downwards.

The Brown camp argues that the plans include a safety cushion of caution on likely tax revenues as well as a projected surplus on

current account. The success in holding down spending at present has created a lower baseline for the later big increases. Perhaps. But even on current forecasts, there has been a fiscal relaxation compared with the March Budget, the Government will not repay any debt and the spending share in national income will rise over the next few years. If Mr Brown has not been as profligate as Francis Maude claimed yesterday, he has been on the risky side of prudence.

The review will, however, stand or fall by Mr Brown's promise to link the spending increases to output measures and targets. We will have to see the substance behind the public service agreements between departments and the Treasury: whether they are any more than wish lists. Mr Brown said a new Cabinet committee would monitor progress — and "money will be released only if departments keep to their plans".

The Treasury is holding back

£7 billion in the third year in modernisation funds for capital investment, health, schools and the unallocated reserve. These will be specifically tied to fulfilment of targets. Yesterday's statement also contained fresh ideas on cross-departmental issues such as helping pre-school children and those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

So there is plenty of New Labour thinking on the management of public services. The doubt is whether these initiatives will be sufficient to deliver higher standards. Apart from student tuition fees, the Blair Government has so far been reluctant to question existing commitments. Providing more money for them will be popular in the short term, but success in the long term will, as ever, depend on a continuing strong economy, which is where past Labour Governments have so often gone wrong in the past. At present, the New Labour brain is reluctant to challenge the Old Labour heart.

PETER RIDDELL

TOTAL PUBLIC SPENDING 1999-2002			
Public spending divided up according to the government department			
EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02
£14.2	£15.5	£17.3	£18.6
HOME OFFICE	£8.9	£7.7	£8.0
HEALTH	£27.2	£40.2	£43.1
£43.1	£48.0		
FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	£2.0	£2.4	£2.9
£1.1	£1.1	£1.3	
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT	£2.3	£2.4	£3.2
DEFENCE	£26.1	£27.6	£27.2
£1.4	£1.3	£1.3	
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & REGIONS	£42.2	£44.0	£46.3
£4.0	£4.0	£4.0	
LEGAL DEPARTMENTS	£2.6	£2.8	£2.8
£2.8	£2.8	£2.7	
DEFENCE	£22.2	£22.3	£22.6
£2.0	£2.0	£2.0	
CABINET OFFICE	£1.3	£1.4	£1.4
£1.4	£1.4	£1.3	
LOCALLY FINANCED EXPENDITURE	£8.7	£16.7	£17.8
£1.3	£1.3	£1.3	
SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND	£25.5	£28.7	£28.1
£28.1	£29.2		
ACCOUNTING	£13.4	£13.3	£13.6
£13.4	£13.3	£13.6	
CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENTS	£2.9	£3.2	£3.2
£2.9	£3.2	£3.2	
RESERVE	£1.0	£1.5	£2.5
£1.0	£1.5	£2.5	
OTHERS*	£13.6	£13.9	£13.8
£13.6	£13.9	£13.8	
SOCIAL SECURITY	£9.4	£10.8	£10.4
£10.8	£10.4	£11.2.4	

* Others including National Lottery, Common Agricultural Policy, Welfare to Work
Coins (2001-2 figures)

Schools that improve work will reap fruit

Bigger-than-expected funding boost is linked to targets such as better examination results, John O'Leary reports

THE Chancellor's £19 billion boost for education was bigger than the most optimistic observers had predicted, but schools, colleges and universities will only benefit in full if they meet performance targets.

Details are to be announced this afternoon. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has already promised to extend the Government's nursery education scheme, double capital spending on schools and make room for 150,000 new students in universities and colleges.

An outline of the Comprehensive Spending Review issued to MPs last night also promised to limit the economies required in further and higher education, provide more money to reduce class sizes and create a £1 billion Service Development Fund for new initiatives in schools.

Last year, Labour's election manifesto promised that a bigger share of national wealth would go into education than had done under the Conservatives. Gordon Brown's three-year deal would give education 5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product by 2001-2, compared with the 4.9 per cent he

inherited. He said that education would receive an extra £3 billion next year, £6 billion more in 2000 and another £10 billion in 2001. But schools, colleges and universities would have to meet various targets, cutting truancy and raising post-school participation as well as improving examination performance, to qualify for the full increase.

Mr Blunkett said it was an "historic day for education and the country". The money would be used to reduce class sizes in the early years of school, to improve basic numeracy and literacy, to reduce truancy and exclusions from school and to create additional places in higher and further education.

An Education Maintenance Allowance will be piloted next year to support 16 to 18-year-olds in further education colleges. If judged successful, the means-tested grants will replace child benefit for over-16s.

Mr Brown claimed it was the "biggest single investment in education in the history of this country". But he had a

firm message on teachers' pay increases. Pay review bodies would have to take account of affordability, the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent and its determination to raise standards.

Senior Government sources were at pains to reassure teachers' leaders that this did not amount to a pay freeze. Mr Brown also said the review bodies had a role to "recruit, reward and motivate staff".

While welcoming the extra resources, teaching unions gave warning that further pay restrictions could only worsen the increasingly severe problems in teacher recruitment. David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Schools face a recruitment crisis of monumental proportions. The Government's education targets will not be met if heads cannot recruit and retain teachers."

Local government leaders asked to meet Mr Blunkett to ensure that the extra money was directed to raising standards in schools. Graham Lane, who chairs the Local Government Association's education committee, said that it would be possible to reduce



Pupil pundits: primary schoolchildren in Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, yesterday

class sizes more quickly than had been expected and that nursery education could be provided for all three-year-olds whose parents wanted it.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, welcomed the announcement but added: "It's a pity we've had to wait so long. In the first two years of this Government, class sizes have risen and

teachers have been sacked."

David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, said the increase was nearer £8 billion than £19 billion. "All the Government is doing after five years is bringing education spending as a proportion of national wealth back to where it was when they started."

The announcement suggests that further education

colleges will receive at least 400,000 out of the 500,000 new students' places to be added over three years. Sue Dutton, of the Association of Colleges, said: "We are delighted that the expanding role of our colleges has been recognised and that poor students in further education will receive help from the new Education Maintenance Allowance."

Help for pre-school children

UNDER-3s

CHILDREN aged under three years and their parents are to be targeted under a strategy to be known as Sure-Start.

The aim is to ensure that the £10 billion spent by a number of departments on services to young children is used more efficiently. At present thousands of the youngest children miss out on services to which they are entitled.

The Sure-Start programme will cover nursery, childcare and playgroup provision, and post-natal and other health services. A new feature will be the provision of counselling and support for parents to help them to prepare their children for school.

Payments for teenagers who stay on at school

STUDENT GRANTS

TEENAGERS from less affluent families will be paid up to £40 a week to stay on at school or college under a scheme to be tested in a dozen local authorities from September.

Plans to introduce the grants as a substitute for child benefit paid to the parents of 16 to 18-year-olds have been the subject of heated debate in Government. Gordon Brown is said to have championed the scheme despite opposition from the Prime Minister.

Details of the pilot projects will be announced today. Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP whose Education Select Committee put forward the plans earlier this year, said teenagers could be paid the

equivalent of the Jobseekers' Allowance for a total cost of about £1 billion.

A task force chaired by Graham Lane, the education chairman of the Local Government Association, backed the idea last month, but opposition from Downing Street was thought to have scuppered the plans. Mr Lane said last night: "This will do more than any other single measure to increase staying-on rates to the levels common in other countries."

The allowance will be linked to parental income and conditional on regular attendance. If successful, it will be extended to all parts of England, allowing child benefit to

be phased out for those who are over 16.

In April, Gordon Brown announced that he intended to shift teenage child benefit given to 1.1 million 16-19 year olds and plough it into the further education sector. Last month, the Education Select Committee put a figure on the education maintenance allowance, which would replace the benefits, calling for cash payments of £38 a week to be offered to students whose parents earned less than £35,000.

Mrs Hodge said the scheme would cost more than £2 billion, but £600 million of this would be released by freeing child benefits and £300 million released by local education authorities that previously offered student support.

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SPENDING REVIEW

We are steadfast in the nation's priorities

□ This is an edited version of the Chancellor's speech.

This Government's central objectives are high and stable levels of growth and employment, and sustainable public services, built from a platform of long-term stability.

And to achieve this, two fundamental economic reforms have been undertaken for the long term — to take monetary policy out of party politics through operational independence for the Bank of England, and to impose a new framework of financial discipline, through fiscal rules that achieve a current budget balance and prudent levels of debt to national income.

Last May we imposed a two-year spending limit and we have kept to this limit. We promised to cut public borrowing, and it has been cut by £20 billion. A fiscal tightening that will be locked-in into next year. We plan current surpluses for the next three years of £7 billion, £10 billion and £13 billion. And as a proportion of national income, debt will fall below 40 per cent.

By the end of this Parliament debt interest payments will be £5 billion a year lower than if we had simply left borrowing at the level inherited from the last Government.

In the last economic cycle, the current budget deficit averaged at 1.5 per cent of national income, the equivalent of £12 billion of extra borrowing every year. Over this economic

cycle and for the first time for decades, Britain is set to have both a current budget in balance and a sustainable approach to debt.

The first innovation of the Comprehensive Spending Review is to move from the short-termism of the annual cycle and to draw up public expenditure plans not on a one-year basis but on a three-year basis.

The review's second conclusion is that all new resources should be conditional on the implementation of essential reforms, money but only in return for modernisation: government moving out of areas where it need not be, and — in those areas where public service matters — government setting clear targets for modern, efficient and effective services.

Each department has reached a public service agreement with the Treasury, effectively a contract with the Treasury for the renewal of public services. The contract sets down the new departmental objectives and targets that have to be met, the stages by which they will be met, how departments intend to allocate resources to achieve these targets and the process that will monitor results. This continuous scrutiny and audit will be overseen by a Cabinet committee, continuing the work of the existing Public Spending Committee.

The contract will stipulate new three-year efficiency targets for the delivery of services — targets that range between 3 per cent and 10 per cent.

The purpose of these targets is to ensure more resources go direct to frontline services — to patient care in the NHS, to classroom teaching, to fighting crime — a policy of promoting frontline services, so that by securing greater value for money, we secure

THE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH

gets for the delivery of services — targets that range between 3 per cent and 10 per cent.

The purpose of these targets is to ensure more resources go direct to frontline services — to patient care in the NHS, to classroom teaching, to fighting crime — a policy of promoting frontline services, so that by securing greater value for money, we secure



"By securing greater value for money, we secure more money for what we value"

more money for what we value.

We have embarked upon a programme of radical reforms. We have already reformed student finance and begun welfare reform — matching rights with responsibilities. Further reforms will be announced in legal aid, procedures for asylum, in child benefit, youth justice and with the withdrawal of unjustified subsidies.

For central and local government we have now agreed a programme for releasing assets we do not need to fund

£11 billion of additional new investment in health, education, housing, transport and other capital projects that we urgently do need. With further announcements today, our policy of promoting public-private partnerships is extended into new areas, including national science policy, urban policy and overseas development.

While we are raising capital investment for three years in order to tackle a backlog of under-investment, current spending will grow by no more than 2.25 per cent. And we must ensure that public sector pay settlements are fair and affordable.

We are announcing a further strengthening of the pay review system. Having spoken to the chairmen, the Prime Minister has confirmed that their role will be strengthened.

But perhaps the most important advantage of conducting a comprehensive spending review is the opportunity for individual secretaries of state to put in place a substantial reallocation of resources within their departments — from bureaucracy to frontline services, from dealing with the symptoms of problems to dealing with causes — and to consider a co-ordinated approach that breaks free from old departmental fragmentations and duplication.

Our prudence has been for a

purpose. It is because we have set tough efficiency targets, and reordered departmental budgets that our top priorities, health and education, will receive more new money than the other 19 government departments combined.

More than half today's allocations will be invested in health and education.

The main conclusion of the review is that it is not just a social duty for government to invest in good public services, to improve our social fabric, and to tackle poverty and deprivation. Most people in Britain also agree that it is in the economic interests of the whole country to create an infrastructure of opportunity, and invest in education, science, transport and strong communities.

Invest in the education of our children and we are investing in our future. But investment will take place only in exchange for further modernisation and reform.

The Education Secretary has agreed not just to set numeracy and literacy targets for 11 year olds but to set government targets for nursery education, for cutting truancy, for higher attainment by teenagers, for improved standards of teaching including a qualification for head teachers, for greater efficiency in further and higher education and for the inspection of schools.

In the last three years of the previous Government growth

in education spending was £7 billion. For the next three years, I can announce additional education spending of £19 billion. We will spend £3 billion more next year, £6 billion more in 2000, £10 billion more in 2001.

That is what we mean by education, education, education. Honouring our commitment to the British people.

In 18 years of the last Government, spending on education rose on average by 1.4 per cent a year. Education spending will now rise in real terms by an average of 5.1 per cent a year till the end of the Parliament.

Today around a million children are still being taught in classrooms built before 1914. 6,000 schools are already being refurbished. On top of this, over the Parliament capital investment to re-equip our schools will double.

And after our reforms in student finance, there will now be an expansion in the number of students in higher and further education. We said we would meet our pledge on school class sizes for 5, 6, and 7 year olds. Under the proposals the Education Secretary will announce our pledge will be met.

The Government also has an economic responsibility to invest in science and innovation, in the transport infrastructure, and in building safer and stronger communities. Net public investment will be doubled as a result of the Government's Investing in Britain Fund.

As a result of a reduction in subsidies that can no longer be justified and as a result of £400 million in support from the Wellcome Foundation, the Government is able to announce the biggest ever government-led public-private partnership for science. A total of £1.1 billion will now be available to provide modern facilities for science research and support science teaching.

After years of neglect and under-investment Britain suffers from an overcrowded, under-financed and under-maintained transport system.

For transport we propose a new investment strategy involving new public-private partnerships and a commitment to integrated planning. There will be £2 billion more investment. From a 25 per cent decline in transport



and based on parental income, will be piloted for 16 to 18 year olds.

As the interdepartmental review of children's services has uncovered, we spend £10 billion on young children but do so in an uncoordinated way with thousands of the youngest children missing out.

Plans for a Sure-Start programme will be announced later this month, to bring together quality services for the under-3s and their parents — nursery, childcare and playgroup provision, and post-natal and other health services.

At the heart of our review has been a determination that we fulfil our duty to the oldest members of our society.

Pensioners will benefit most from a better health service. For pensioners, from next April, eye-test charges will be abolished.

In his Transport White Paper the Deputy Prime Minister will announce plans for nationwide help with transport for the elderly. The elderly fear their winter fuel bills.

As a result of the cut in VAT, our winter fuel payment and other changes, average pensioner fuel bills are up to £100 lower this year. Later this week the Social Security Secretary will announce plans for help with fuel bills. From next April every pensioner and pensioner couple will have a minimum income guarantee. And we will also set a minimum tax guarantee: that no pensioner will pay income tax unless their income rises above a specified level.

As a result of cutting wasteful bureaucracy and a new targeting of resources, £290 million extra will be invested in museums, the arts and sport over the next three years, a real increase of 5.5 per cent.

As a result of asset sales, the Foreign Office budget will not only ensure more resources for the proper representation of Britain abroad, but also the Foreign Secretary is announcing that our support for the BBC World Service will be raised by £44 million over the next three years.

For 20 years overseas aid has been falling as a proportion of national income. Under this Government it will rise.

As a result of a decision to sell a majority stake in the Commonwealth Development Corporation, and of a new decision to target overseas development assistance on health, education and anti-poverty programmes, the Secretary of State for International Development will announce that Britain will, during this Parliament, increase overseas aid from the low of 0.25 per cent of national income — the figure we inherited last year — to 0.3 per cent of national income. Aid which was falling by 2 per cent a year under the last Government will rise in each of the next three years.

The National Health Service is compassion in action, what its founder, Aneurin Bevan, rightly called the most

civilised achievement of modern government.

The conclusion of the review is that it is fair and efficient to provide the best health service we can on the basis of need, not the ability to pay, and that under this Government health services will never be left to the hazards of private or charitable provision.

Yet half the beds in NHS hospitals are in accommodation built for the First World War. Investment in the NHS is long overdue.

The Secretary of State for Health will announce on Thursday targets that tackle inefficiencies in hospitals and cost overruns, that simplify management structures and give a new emphasis to long-term planning.

On quality all hospitals will be required to publish league tables measuring the success rates of their treatments. Over the lifetime of this Parliament over £1 billion will be saved from red tape and put into patient care, in part by scrapping the costly internal market.

So on the fiftieth anniversary of the NHS this Government will now make the biggest ever investment in its future. Under the last Government the increase for the last three years was £7 billion. For the coming three years, I am announcing an increase of a total of £21 billion.

Health department spending rose by an average of 2.5 per cent a year during the last Parliament. Next year it will rise by 5.7 per cent. The year after by 4.5 per cent.

We will meet our waiting list pledge as promised. And every hospital will benefit from the 50 per cent increase in investment in equipment and buildings and the £5 billion fund for modernisation.

As we start its next 50 years the National Health Service is



"We have made the choices that are needed to deliver stable public finances"

safe in this Government's hands.

This Government has made the choices necessary to deliver stable and sustainable public finances. We have been steadfast in our priorities — the nation's priorities.

And now, as a result of prudence and a commitment to an investment in return for reform, a total £40 billion will be invested in the nation's priorities — health and education.

A Government whose prudence allows us to build modern public services and to renew Britain. A Government keeping our promises to the people of Britain. A Government step by step making Britain better. And I commend this statement to the House.

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Out of the hate, a moment to find shared sorrow

BENEATH grey skies and before a multitude of weeping mourners, the three young brothers murdered in an arson attack were buried side by side yesterday in white coffins so small that they fitted into a single hearse.

The funerals of those killed in sectarian or terrorist atrocities serve a double purpose in Northern Ireland. They consign the dead to their Maker, but they also give the vast majority of the population who are decent, law-abiding people a chance to express their horror.

Yesterday thousands of Catholics and Protestants attended the funeral of Richard Quinn, 11, Mark 9, and Jason, 7 — victims of the sectarian hatred fomented by the Drumcree stand-off — at the grey Church of Our Lady and St Patrick in Ballymoney, North Antrim. "I couldn't do anything else," said a Protestant man in the huge overflow crowd following the service through loudspeakers. "It's terrible. It's a crime against the community."

Seamus Mallon, Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister, was there. So were several Unionist politicians, Presbyterian and Methodist ministers, a representative of

Bishop tells boys' funeral that this is a time to heal, writes Martin Fletcher

President Clinton, firemen who fought to save the children's lives, and Colin Parry, whose son was killed in the IRA's 1993 Warrington bomb. So, too, were journalists and television crews from around the world, witnessing this latest tragedy in Northern Ireland's awful history.

They heard the Most Rev Patrick Walsh, Bishop of Down and Connor, say that the blame lay not only with the killers but with those who had incited them: "The weapons of hate-filled words inevitably fuel weapons of murderous destruction."

But in the wake of the tragedy, voices of sanity had been raised: "Agonising words, words of self-examination, courageous words, words

of strength, words of healing have been spoken."

Father Peter Forde, the parish priest, suggested that the shared sorrow was a "beacon of hope for the whole community". A girl tearfully read a poem: "Why would someone do this? Is the question on our lips/Who would have so much evil at his fingertips?"

Outside, Mr Parry said that it was hard even for him to imagine how a family must feel after losing three children. Some clue was offered by the loud sobbing of John Dillon, the children's father, and the other male relatives who bore the coffins — hearing the name and a photograph of each child — from the church.

The church itself has been firebombed during the Troubles and its windows are reinforced with metal grilles.

The boys' Catholic mother, Chrissie, followed a few yards behind with her surviving son, Lee, 12. Her boys were raised as Protestants but killed by so-called Protestants, so she had opted for a Catholic service.

Because she never wants to return to Ballymoney again, the burial was in the hillside cemetery of St Mary's Church in Rasharkin, about 10 miles south, where the boys' grandmother lives. As the mile-long



John Dillon carries one of the coffins containing his sons. The burial was held outside Ballymoney because their mother never wants to return

cortège drove through the countryside, scores more people stood outside their homes or beside their cars in silent respect.

The cortège passed one of the Rev Ian Paisley's Free Presbyterian churches with its

legend *Ardens Sed Virens* — Fiery But Vigorous. Dr Paisley is the local MP but was not present yesterday.

Late the previous night he visited Drumcree, demanded that the Orange protest continue and attacked the media for

linking the stand-off to the murders.

After he left, petrol bombs were thrown at the security forces, who responded with plastic bullets.

Spits in the Orange Order deepened yesterday when its

chaplains backed the Rev William Bingham, the Co Armagh chaplain who called for the protest to end after the Quinn murders and is now being called a traitor by hardliners.

The Representative Group

of Orange Order Chaplains expressed their "utter revulsion" at the murders, deplored the expulsion of Catholic families from their homes and said they felt "bitter shame at all this, allegedly carried out in the name of Protestantism".

Boys tackle mugger who robbed woman

By Peter Foster

TWO nine-year-old boys who chased and caught a mugger after he had knocked down and robbed a woman were praised for their bravery yesterday.

George Ball and John McMahon saw the 6ft thief tear off his victim's £3,000 Cartier wristwatch and then make his escape into a park in Fulham, southwest London. They ran after their quarry, cornering him after a 50-yard chase. John grabbed hold of a leg while George pulled on a shirt-tail, forcing the robber to drop the watch and flee.

After dusting themselves down they walked the shaken victim home.

Ayn Strecker, 40, praised her rescuers: "They are my private bodyguards, my guardian angels. It is not something you expect people to do any more."

John recalled the events of last Saturday morning: "The lady got up and shouted for help and we ran after him. I was a bit frightened when we caught up and grabbed him. He kept on shouting, 'Get off me' but I didn't until he dropped the watch."

Girl, 2, dies during police chase

By Russell Jenkins

POLICE have launched an investigation into the death of a two-year-old girl who was killed in a car crash in Co Durham during a police pursuit. Kate Ridley, who was sitting on her mother's knee on the front passenger seat, was one of a family of nine squeezed into a speeding Nissan Micra.

A patrol car with flashing lights and siren followed the R-registered Micra for about ten miles through six villages. A police helicopter joined the pursuit shortly before the car, designed to seat four safely, swerved off the straight road and ploughed into trees.

Officers in the pursuit car were able to pull three children clear of the wreckage. The driver, Michael Ridley, 32, and Julie Hunter, 27, his long-term partner, were trapped with the remaining four children. The family, from Newbottle, Tyne and

Wear, were taken by ambulance to Sunderland Royal Hospital from the crash scene on the B1285 in Murton, Co Durham. Paramedics could do nothing to save the two-year-old.

Mr Ridley is in critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit. Miss Hunter suffered multiple fractures to her legs and pelvis.

Their son, Michael junior, is also in intensive care but his condition is not thought to be life threatening. His brothers and sisters Dawn, 10, Samantha, 9, Shouni, 6, Josh, 5, and Gavin, 3, were all detained in hospital for observation.

Accident investigators are still trying to piece together the sequence of events that led up to the crash.

A spokesman for Durham Police, said: "At the time of the accident the Micra was being followed at a safe distance by a

marked Northumbria Police car with siren sounding and lights flashing. In the moments before the crash the police helicopter was monitoring events and other police vehicles were directed to the scene."

The Northumbria force has referred the investigation to the Police Complaints Authority. Superintendent Paul Tinkler, Durham Constabulary's head of traffic and the investigating officer, said that all possibilities would be looked at, including the wearing of seatbelts and the speed of the Micra.

Early conclusions drawn from video footage shot by the police helicopter show that the pursuing police car, a Ford Mondeo, was some distance behind the Micra. Two other marked police cars and one unmarked car were following the Mondeo when the accident happened.

Students win top marks for art hoax

By Paul Wilkinson

THIRTEEN art students who carried off an elaborate hoax in the name of art have been given top marks for their daring.

The Leeds University students claimed to have spent a £1,120 grant for an art show on a Spanish holiday. They said the point of their project was the expression on the faces of their lecturers who went to see an art exhibition but instead saw the group apparently arriving home on a plane from Málaga.

Later, after the ensuing press coverage and conden-

nation, they admitted the hoax and that they had gone to Scarborough instead. The university union, which had given them a grant, banned them from its buildings.

Terry Atkinson, their tutor, has now praised the group and given them a first for the module of their course covered by the project. He said: "We think they're a pretty clever bunch and expect them to do very well in their degree shows next year. Leeds University would have had to pay £500,000 to get publicity like this."

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Stolen marbles found on wreck go back to Turkey

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

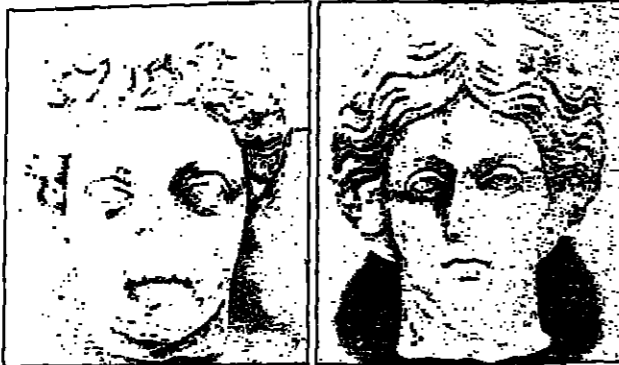
SEVEN marble sculptures dating from the 2nd century, found by divers on a wreck off Kent, will be handed back to Turkey today.

The antiquities, including a figure of the goddess Venus and a bust of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius as a young man, were discovered by members of a sub-aqua club who were investigating the wreck of the SS *Castor*.

The steamship, built in Glasgow in 1870, collided in dense fog with a German vessel on July 28, 1894, and sank off Dungeness en route to Amsterdam from Turkey.

The divers, members of the Folkestone branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club, took the "Castor Marbles", which include five funerary monuments, to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust for identification. Research in collaboration with the Receiver of Wreck concluded that the artefacts belong to the Government of Turkey.

They had been shipped out illegally by Alfred van Lennep,



Sunken treasure: Marcus Aurelius and the goddess Venus

PC TO INVESTIGATE NEOLITHIC TOMB

A Strathclyde policeman is expected today to become the first human being for 5,000 years to set foot inside a recently discovered neolithic tomb (Shirley English writes). The burial cairn near Kirkwall, Orkney, appears to be intact and undamaged in spite of lying a foot beneath a farmer's barley field. PC David Thurlley, 41, will use electrostatic strips to recover any fibres or hairs and will take scrapings from bones for DNA testing. If there are any tool marks or footprints in the chamber he will try to take casts. *Leading article, page 21*

the Dutch vice-consul in Smyrna (Izmir) during the 1890s. He was an amateur archaeologist and dealer in illicit antiquities and was planning to sell the two crates

of Roman/Greek pieces to the Leiden Museum, even though it was an offence to remove antiquities.

Veronica Robbins, the Receiver of Wreck, will hand

back the stolen goods to Ozdem Sanberk, the Turkish Ambassador, in London today. She said: "This ceremony marks the end of one of the most extraordinary maritime archaeological stories in recent years. I am honoured on behalf of the British Government to hand such a unique and significant find back to the legitimate owners, the Republic of Turkey."

The marbles have been examined by the British Museum and, based on independent valuations, the Turkish authorities have paid a salvage award to the divers. "The value of the find has been estimated at £25,000."

Mrs Robbins, whose department is part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, added: "Every item recovered from the sea floor has at some time had an owner. If divers find wreck, they must contact the Receiver or their local coastguard station."

"All finders should let us know of their discoveries as quickly as possible, to give the legitimate owners the opportunity of recovering their property. The law allows them a salvage award."



Trevor Montague, who posed as an Italian for Channel 4's *Fifteen-to-One*

Serial quiz contestant is sued for prize return

By PETER FOSTER

AN INVETERATE television quiz contestant who disguised himself as an Italian actor so that he could appear three times on his favourite show was sued for the return of his prizes yesterday after he was rumbled by a sharp-eyed viewer.

Trevor Montague, 44, gelled back his hair, borrowed some earrings from his niece and changed his name to Steve Romana to fool the makers of Channel 4's *Fifteen-to-One* in 1992.

Four years later Mr Montague went on to win the programme's final but his triumph proved his undoing after a viewer watching repeats of the 1992 edition noticed a striking similarity between the two contestants.

Yesterday Regent Productions, the programme's makers, took Mr Montague to court to recover up to £5,000 in prizes, travel expenses and hotel bills enjoyed by Mr Montague during his three outings on the show.

The chartered accountant, from Crawley, West Sussex, who has also appeared on *Mastermind*, *The Krypton Factor* and *Countdown*, arrived at Wandsworth County Court clutching his trophies. He was ordered to hand them over to the court and the hearing was adjourned until September after William Stuart, the programme's presenter, was unable to attend.

MPs attack Yard over officers on sick leave

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard's failure to stem the spiralling number of officers claiming paid sick leave for six months or more comes under attack in a Commons report published today.

The report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee found that the days lost through long-term sickness absences — involving at least half a year off work — doubled between 1991-92 and 1996-97 to 103,000 days a year. Nearly two thirds of the absences were blamed on back and neck injuries or stress.

The committee said that the Metropolitan Police "could have acted earlier to tackle this trend". Long-term sickness has helped to increase days lost through illness by a quarter since 1991 to 397,000 in 1996-97. MPs urged Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, to reduce the pay of officers off sick for long periods.

The committee also expressed concern that the number of officers taking medical retirements doubled between 1991 and 1997 to 457. The cost of sick officers retiring in 1996-97 was £26.5 million.

In the report, MPs praised the Yard for plans to overhaul operations and to cut the annual £72 million sickness bill by £10 million this year.

Last month the Yard launched a new sickness policy, including a letter to all officers warning them that suspected malingers would not be promoted or transferred.

The Yard welcomed the report and said that many recommendations had already been implemented.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Sex attack' man cannot sue council

A man who claims he was sexually assaulted by his deputy headmaster on a school trip to Spain seven years ago cannot sue the local authority, the Court of Appeal ruled.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said the alleged assault had a severe effect on the man but blame could not be laid at the door of the council that ran the school.

North Yorkshire County Council brought the appeal after a decision against it in Darlington last August.

Drugs struggle

Customs officers had little impact on the amount of drugs being sold on the streets, according to the National Audit Office. Drugs worth £3.3 billion were seized in 1997-98 but the number of seizures has remained stable at about 8,000 over the past nine years.

Police apology

Dennis and Dianne Homer, whose son Neil, 20, died when a West Midlands police car crashed into his vehicle during a 100mph chase at Oldbury, have accepted a previous offer of undisclosed damages after winning a 2½-year fight for an unserved apology from the force.

The way we were

The BBC is embarking on an oral history of the 20th century. People from all walks of life will be interviewed for programmes to be broadcast by the BBC's local radio services in England, plus Radio Scotland, Radio Wales, Radio Cymru and Radio Ulster, starting in autumn next year.

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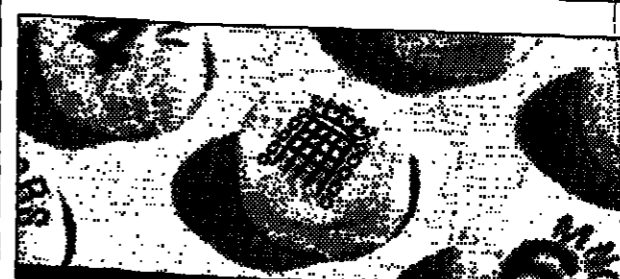
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Millionaire who found the good life too muddy

Motor dealer and wife complained that sheep had made mess beside their land, writes Michael Hornsby



Baines' sheep had muddied the path

MILLIONAIRE and his wife who moved to the country search of the good life did not count on cows, sheep and muddy roads being part of it. In an attempt to preserve their sanitised vision of the rural idyll, Frank Sytner, a car dealer and former racing driver, and his wife, Elizabeth, took Edward Baines, a neighbouring farmer, to court. They ended up paying his and their own legal costs.

should have expected the occasional muddy road. "It is a consequence of living in the countryside," the judge said. "This was a country road being used for agricultural purposes. Mud was inevitable. I am satisfied that there was proper access to Mr and Mrs Sytner's field."

The court heard that Mr Sytner had paid Mr Baines £10,000 for a six-acre paddock in the picturesque village of Ridlington, Rutland, on which to graze his horses. The farmer had retained a strip of land, including part of a track belonging to Mr Sytner, for his sheep during the lambing season.

Mr Sytner claimed his right of way had been obstructed by Mr Baines's livestock and the quantity of mud they generated. "I went to have a look at the track and saw a large number of sheep. I counted 18,

and there was an unbelievable amount of mud," he said. "It was impassable. I accept that there was a large amount of rain at that time of year, but the sheep were the obvious cause of the mud."

Questioned by John Cartwright, for the defence, Mr Sytner admitted he had not tried to get through the mud and past the sheep, but insisted: "It would have required a very special vehicle to get through that mud - some sort of four-wheel drive. I was not prepared to try. I bought the

land for my family and friends to use, but we could not get to it. It was of great importance for me to make sure there was access."

Mrs Sytner told the court: "I was in my garden and heard cows making a noise in the field. It was annoying, so I went to see what was happening." The judge intervened to observe that it might be normal for cows to be heard in the countryside, to which Mrs Sytner replied: "Yes. It's unfortunate, isn't it?"

After the hearing, Mr Baines, a county councillor, said: "People moving into the countryside must have an acceptance of country values. I am obviously delighted with the outcome. Common sense has prevailed. After all, I was only using the land for my sheep."

Mr Sytner, who made his fortune from a string of BMW dealerships, outraged the local community last autumn by bulldozing a Bronze Age encampment to build a turning circle for a horsebox. He was accused of "sweeping away 4,000 years of history" but claimed afterwards not to have known the site existed.



Sytner in a vintage Ferrari: he took neighbour to court because of "an unbelievable amount of mud" on the road

THE THREAT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

Much rural development in England is destroying the qualities that make the countryside attractive and distinctive and failing to benefit the people who live there, a report says today.

The health of the rural economy, as measured by employment levels and population growth, had been achieved

at the cost of changes to its essential character that were unsustainable over the long run, the study suggests.

John Bryden, professor of human geography at Aberdeen University, who led the team compiling the report, said: "The population of rural areas grew by nearly 17 per cent between 1971 and 1991, compared with an increase of only 4 per cent in England as a whole.

and rural employment in manufacturing, tourism and other service sectors has been quite dynamic.

"But what rural areas have to sell depends largely on their traditional character, and if you destroy that, you destroy the goose that lays the golden egg." Easily accessible countryside had become a magnet for a type of "footloose" business development.

Dome yacht firm sinks after storm of controversy

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE makers of a revolutionary yacht, shortlisted for a display of British design genius at the Millennium Exhibition, have gone into liquidation.

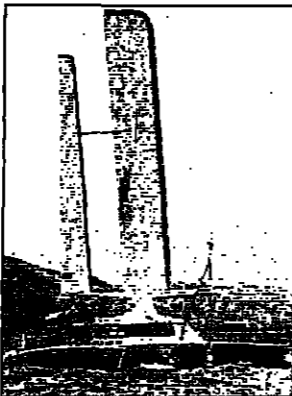
Walker Wingsail Systems blames a collapse in investor confidence on the bad publicity it received after being chosen as an official Millennium Product by the Design Council.

The so-called "curse of the dome" also struck Lotus Cars, whose new Elise model was on the list of 202 products chosen to wave the flag for British innovation in 2000. Last month it recalled 3,800 vehicles to check a potential flaw in a timing belt.

John Walker, founder of Walker Wingsail Systems and inventor of the computer-controlled wingsail, said yesterday that he was glum and wary after running out of money to invest in the yachts. He has had to lay off his remaining 40 workers at Davenport, Plymouth, and says he faces a struggle with a reb group of shareholders who will try to wrest control of the assets for his invention.

"We were very proud to be a Millennium Product but, like Ann Sully putting her head above the parapet, we started getting flak from all directions," he said.

"It is an absolute bloody nightmare and a nightmare for the Design Council. So far it has been nothing but trouble



The Zefyr 43: at centre of US\$1.5 m law suit

because there are so many knockers," Mr Walker added. "There are a tremendous number of people out to be negative. It is contemptible. It is why we would rather do it anywhere else but this country."

The choice of the computer-controlled wingsail as a Millennium Product caused questions to be raised in the House of Commons because of its history of alleged design and construction faults. Only three of the yachts - Zefyr 43s - have been built. The first is at the centre of a \$1.5 million (£915,000) lawsuit in the United States, accused of being "inoperable, unusable and dangerous to crew and passengers".

The Design Council said: "Two of our 200 products have encountered very minor problems. The other 99 per cent are very, very positive about it."

Safe British drivers pay less insurance

By A CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH drivers are among the safest in Europe according to a survey of the number of motor insurance claims submitted in various European Union countries.

French drivers file nearly twice as many claims a year as the British, and the Spaniards nearly three times as many. As British drivers make fewer claims,

they do not have to pay as much for their motor insurance. The average paid in this country was £231, compared with a European average of £290. The Swiss pay £537.

While insurance premiums in France, Germany, Italy and Spain have risen by 19 per cent in seven years, the cost of insurance in Britain has fallen by 8 per cent, thanks mainly to competition.

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Serial quiz contestant is sued for prize return

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'Foreign legion' returns home for Kosovo fight

THE shooting was long overdue when it came, and afforded almost a relief after the nerve-grinding drive through no man's land.



Anthony Loyd in Lodje runs into multilingual graduates who love the rebel cause and would hate to appear 'uncultured'

A little puff of smoke from the barricade and a thwack marked the first bullet as well as the signal for the start of an agonising 20-point turn as our woman driver attempted to turn the car around.

An unseen fighter on a flank added further impetus with his Kalashnikov, and though it was hard to tell if the gunfire was intended to be punitive or merely in warning we grinned out of the windows, raising our hands to show that we had no weapons.

Under these circumstances, I expected the armed men who approached us to be hostile, villagers incapable of any more communication than the language of the gun.

To my surprise, they proved to be urbane, cosmopolitan individuals whose education

had continued for years after my own had ended. They even began to smile with embarrassment as they neared, awkward perhaps over what social introduction to make after having first shot at us.

Salja was the first to speak. A 26-year-old lawyer whose English was perfect, he had graduated initially in economics before travelling throughout Europe and studying law. Since the beginning of the Kosovo crisis in March he remained in Lodje, his birthplace, joining the nascent Kosovo Liberation Army to take up arms against the Serbs.

"There may be time for law

again later," he said. "But as you can see we stand here now, in our own land. We have nowhere else to go and we are ready to die."

He was joined by Rexhep, a hotelier who had learned his profession in Düsseldorf, where he had learned to speak fluent German as well as passable English and Italian.

Rexhep wore camouflage battle dress and his chest was criss-crossed with bandoliers of Kalashnikov ammunition and grenades, projecting an image far removed from that of the early spring when the KLA were all but unseen and armed with shotguns and pistols.



Serb civilians on guard above Dasnik near the village of Lodje, which is under the control of the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army

Rexhep owned two cars, a restaurant and house in Lodje. We had passed them on our journey across the lines: Serb shellfire the previous day had reduced the lot to twisted metal and blackened rubble.

"I had no previous military experience," the hotelier said. "But the past three months have been a time of quick learning and as a force we are stronger by the day. Sometimes we have a problem in

getting anti-tank weapons, but sometimes not." As Serb artillery rumbled menacingly in the mountains above us, a runner returned with an officer. Almost inevitably, this 30-year-old commander, who

due to his previous military experience in the Yugoslav National Army had been sent to Lodje three days previously to establish a defensive line, was a mechanical engineer and was working until last spring in Finland.

He spoke four languages fluently, in addition to a spectrum of working knowledge in others. Though good-humoured, he explained that a recent order had stipulated that under no circumstances were foreigners to be taken inside KLA positions.

"It is war now, and we cannot trust anybody. The Serbs have many spies. At this moment in time I cannot trust my father or mother," he added smiling. "And certainly not my wife, who I have left in Scandinavia."

He said that it was possible we had secret transmitters to the Serbs hidden among our possessions. But when we offered to be searched, the hotelier, the lawyer and the engineer looked horrified. "Oh, we couldn't possibly do that," the officer said. "It would be most uncultured".

This conflict, itself a strange affair that so far sits between peace and all-out war, has many paradoxes.

And it seemed not a little ironic as we travelled back to the Serb lines that we were leaving behind an insurgent army whose growth, so far unchecked by one of Eastern Europe's most powerful armies, must be among the fastest in contemporary times. It is a force fronted by a returning diaspora of multilingual graduates who are quite prepared to shoot at strangers, yet balk at searching them because it would be "uncultured".



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Freed dissidents seek more China releases

Beijing: Two Chinese human rights activists who were arrested after trying to set up an opposition political party have marked their release by writing to President Jiang Zemin asking that he free four of their detained colleagues (James Pringle writes).

Cheng Fan and Zhai Weimin were among nine dissidents seized in the eastern city of Hangzhou after trying to register the Chinese Democratic Party last month, the day after President Clinton arrived for a visit. "Preparations to set up the party are

totally in accordance with China's current laws." Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement, a Hong Kong group, quoted the letter as saying. "Their action did not violate any law."

Though America has asked that the men be released a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday described the "so-called dissidents" as "some criminals who violated Chinese law" and said that no one else had the right to interfere in the internal affairs of China.

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Israeli leader 'tried to coerce spy trial judge'

Binyamin Netanyahu has been drawn into a simmering sexual and legal scandal, Christopher Walker writes

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, was embroiled on the fringes of a scandal yesterday over allegations that he tried to influence the trial of a former Israeli paratrooper convicted of selling poison gas material to arch-enemy Iran.

Reprising restrictions on the affair were lifted by the Supreme Court, revealing that the key figure is an Israeli woman lawyer alleged to have had sexual relations with Mr Netanyahu's media adviser, a security official involved in the arrest of the ex-paratrooper and his senior judge who presided over his trial.

Pnina Yaneh, the lawyer, is at the centre of allegations made against her by a former boyfriend and submitted in the form of a petition by Amnon Zichroni, defence lawyer of the convicted former paratrooper and businessman Nahum Manbar, 52.

Although three Supreme Court judges lifted the gagging order, they refused to rule on a demand by defence lawyers for a review of the trial of Manbar, who was accused of making \$16 million (£9 million) between 1991 and 1994 through sales in the revolutionary regime in Iran.

The state prosecutor's office last night that it would open an investigation into the accusations and possibly press criminal charges.

One Israeli journalist described the scandal as being with intrigue, tragedy and irony. Manbar had been expected to receive a life sentence in Tel Aviv today. But the new legal complexities may mean that sentencing is postponed, and proceedings will open with a call to Judge Amnon Strashnov to stand down.

Mr Netanyahu is accused of telephoning Judge Strashnov — who as chief army prosecutor was accused of showing leniency to soldiers charged with mistreating Palestinians — during the trial to demand a harsh sentence for Manbar. The ex-paratrooper was found guilty of "colluding with the enemy" by selling materials to

make nerve and mustard gas in Iran. Mr Netanyahu's interest in the case was made public when he said that the crime had no parallel in Israel's 50-year history and deserved a stiff punishment.

The Prime Minister's office has strenuously denied that Mr Netanyahu contacted the judge during the trial.

According to Israel radio, the petition submitted to the High Court alleged that Ms Yaneh was told six months ago by Mr Netanyahu's media adviser, Shai Bazak, that the ex-paratrooper would be found guilty. The radio said that all allegations in the petition, which were made by the lawyer's former boyfriend, were unproven.

The radio relayed in detail the farrago of sexual, legal and political intrigue claimed to have begun when Ms Yaneh — now dismissed from

Manbar's defence team — was alleged to have begun having sexual relations with Judge Strashnov during her legal internship with him, and continued them during the trial, her next job.

The radio said the boyfriend's affidavit alleged that, during the trial, the judge contacted Ms Yaneh with notes and by telephone expressing his desire to meet her. "Some ... contained explicit sexual, and even vulgar, references," it added.

Opposition MPs are demanding an immediate inquiry into the allegations, the latest in a series of scandals to plague the Netanyahu administration since it came to power in 1996. Nissim Zivili, a Labour deputy, described Mr Netanyahu's alleged contacts with Judge Strashnov as an "intolerable interference by the executive power in a court case".

A Knesset deputy, Motti Zandberg, of the right-wing Tsomet Party, a member of Mr Netanyahu's coalition, called for an inquiry to determine if there had been any wrongdoing. "If this is correct, it is a serious violation of the principle of separation of powers."

Other government supporters lambasted the Opposition for siding with a convicted traitor, some suggesting that he had once given funds to the main opposition Labour Party.

Manbar's wife, Francine, speaking in France, said that the court had not let certain defence witnesses testify and that censorship prevented Israel's "numerous" trade ties with Iran during the 1990s being raised.

"There is a real scandal," she added. "The whole trial from the beginning has not been kosher. The trial is a farce. Everything was planned in advance."



Judge Strashnov: notes "had vulgar references"



Pnina Yaneh: accused of having sex with several key figures, including the judge

WORLD IN BRIEF

Twelve held over airport fraud

Hong Kong: Twelve people have been arrested over suspected corruption in building work at the new Hong Kong airport railway station. Those held are two shareholders, five employees of sub-contractors and five engineering technicians (Michael Mackley writes). The Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) acted after complaints that sub-contractors and site engineering staff had conspired to cover up standard foundation work. "It is alleged that bribes have been offered for the cover-up," the ICAC said. ICAC officers also seized 14 handguns and 1,000 rounds of ammunition, and arrested a man and a woman in connection with the seizure.

Tests for ill King Hussein

Amman: King Hussein of Jordan left for the United States, where he said he will have medical tests after suffering a fever over the past 12 days. "I had a bout of fever, with cold sweats on average three times a day," he said. Since 1992, when an inflamed kidney was found to have cancerous cells, the King, 62, has undergone regular checkups at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He said he would still make an official trip to France scheduled for Tuesday. (AFP)

Eight killed in tanker blast

Nairobi: At least eight people died in western Kenya when an overturned petrol tanker exploded as dozens of people collected fuel that was pouring from the vehicle, the Kenya News Agency said. Forty-eight people were hurt, 30 with serious burns. The blast occurred near Sindidi, 35 miles west of the Lake Victoria shore town of Kisumu. The agency said that the driver lost control of his vehicle when a tyre burst. He escaped before the explosion. (AFP)

India displays seized arms



Delhi: India unveiled an awesome range of military equipment that it said had been supplied by Pakistan to Kashmiri separatists. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, opened an exhibition displaying hundreds of guns, explosives, anti-tank mines and communication equipment, above, seized from militants in the northern state. A document titled "Proxy War" said Pakistan's strategy was to bleed India through 1,000 cuts. (Reuters)

War camp wife accused

Belgrade: A court here called for an investigation of suspected genocide involving the wife of Dinko Sakic, the commander of a Second World War Croat concentration camp currently on trial in Croatia. Nada Luburic-Sakic, who stayed in Argentina when her husband was extradited, is believed to have run a female camp in Jasenovac, where tens of thousands of Serbs, Jews, Gypsies and Croat insurgents were killed by Croatia's pro-Nazi regime. (AP)

Officers poisoned Abacha, envoy claims

Lagos: Nigeria's widely reviled former dictator, General Sani Abacha, who died last month, was poisoned by army officers, a leading diplomat in the country claims (David Orr writes). "I know for a fact he was poisoned," the diplomat told *The Times*. "My sources in the [Nigerian] army have confirmed this. A small group of officers thought the only solution was to poison him and this is what they did."

A Nigerian newspaper, however, reported yesterday that post-mortem results showed General Abacha died of natural causes. The independent *Thisday* said "blood, urine and tissue samples" taken and analysed in Germany soon after Abacha's death revealed no evidence of poisoning.

The Nigerian Government said Abacha died of a heart attack on June 8. But there has been widespread specula-

tion that he was poisoned with spiked apple juice while in the company of two prostitutes at a guesthouse in Abuja, the capital.

The US State Department said this week that it had reports that Abacha was poisoned but "we do not have conclusive evidence" to that effect. Abacha's death and his replacement by General Abdulsalam Abubakar raised hopes that Nigeria would move closer to democracy.

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Mugabe threatens to clamp down on 'lying' newspapers

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE has warned of restrictions on Zimbabwe's critical independent press, almost the only source of revelations of endemic state corruption, and that he wants to tighten up laws that permit public demonstrations.

The four weekly privately-owned newspapers and a clutch of magazines were "thriving on lies, lies, lies", he said at a reception for parliamentarians. "You cannot go a week without reading a blatant lie that is printed in order to make the reader buy the paper."

Despite the high price of the four papers, their close scrutiny of the cloak-and-dagger business of party and government bosses is devoured by readers cynical of the diet of official speeches in the state-controlled press.

The recent emergence of a strong independent press is regarded as a major contributor to anti-government sentiment that has made Mr Mugabe increasingly edgy in the worsening economic crisis.

He told the gathering that parliament would be examining freedom of the press and ways to protect individual privacy. "Shall papers be allowed to continue to manufacture lies so they can do so at the expense of individuals? I say no," he declared.

However, his remarks elicited only a scattered clap from the large gathering of ruling party MPs, who are pressing for a major disarming of the country's repressive laws. Diplomats, most of them from Western governments that now link aid to democracy, were dismayed.

"There are enough laws to control journalists," said Mike Auret, chairman of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe. "If Mugabe thinks people are lying, let him take them to court. We don't need any more media control."

Mr Mugabe also told MPs to work on "mechanisms of control" to increase police powers over public demonstrations.

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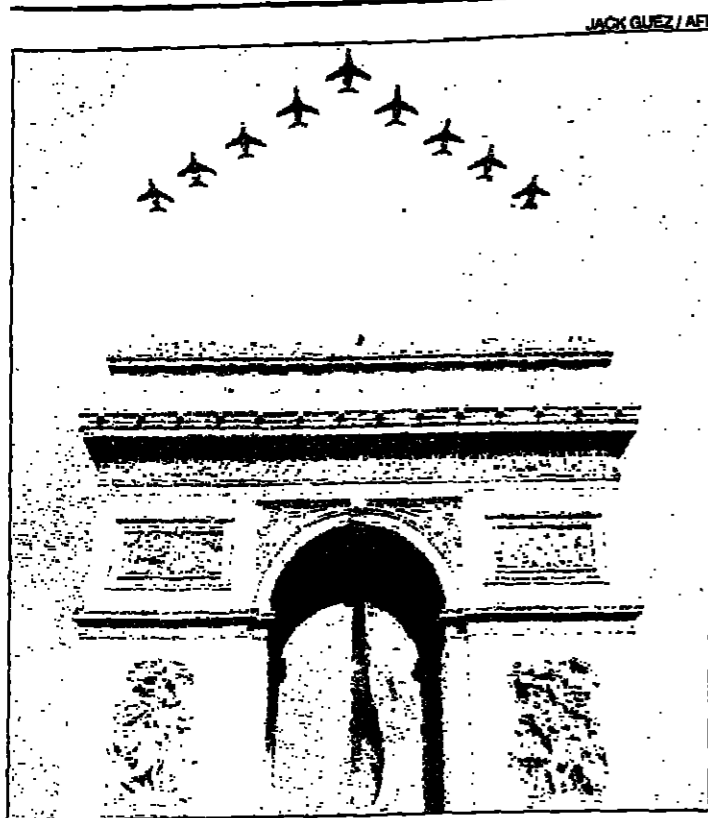
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هكازمن السهل



Jets trail the French colours above the Arc de Triomphe

Chirac and Zidane on top form for Bastille Day

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC may have wondered whether French World Cup euphoria had gone a step too far yesterday when guests at his annual Bastille Day garden party chanted "Zidane! President!" as the player who scored twice in the final against Brazil appeared on the lawns of the Elysée Palace.

If M Chirac's nose was put out of joint by the clamour for Zinedine Zidane to replace him as France's head of state, he did not show it. Indeed, the beaming President announced that every member of the French team would be awarded the Légion d'honneur, France's highest civilian honour.

The Elysée garden party is traditionally a restrained and

somewhat formal affair, attended by the country's senior politicians, military brass, diplomatic dignitaries and the international press corps, but after France's World Cup victory, M Chirac invited the entire French team, their trainers and families, many of whom turned up wearing track suits or jeans, a far cry from the *tenuis de ville* [suits] stipulated by the Palace.

For surely the first time, smartly dressed autograph-hunters jostled one another in the Elysée forecourt, under the noses of the Republican Guard, as the players arrived. Laurent Blanc, who missed the final after being sent off against Croatia, needed all his pace and footwork to escape the fans. But the



President Chirac applauds as Zinedine Zidane displays the World Cup at the Elysée Palace party for Bastille Day yesterday

largest shout was reserved for Zidane, who walked down the Elysée back steps alongside M Chirac looking, frankly, presidential, as "We are the champions" blared out from loudspeakers. There is no evidence that Zidane wants to be President, but it is clear that M Chirac would like to be in the French team, for he could be seen at the party signing footballs and holding up three fingers in symbolic celebration of the 3-0 victory over Brazil on Sunday.

The most popular food tent on the sweeping lawn was serving couscous, the North African staple, a menu choice that some interpreted as yet another tribute to Zidane, who is the Marseilles-born son of

an Algerian janitor. In the days of Francois Mitterrand, M Chirac's Socialist predecessor, the annual party was an elite, even pompous occasion, but at yesterday's bash formality was abandoned as women in haute couture and military officers in full dress uniform shouted "Allez les Bleus!" and "Zizou! Zizou!". Zidane's nickname. One tearful high-heeled woman declared: "This is the new France."

The "Zidane effect", which has already been hailed as a tonic for France's racial problems, also extended to the food-collecting techniques at yesterday's garden party. Instead of waiting in discreet lines at each tent, this year the guests

favoured the tactics of the French midfielder: tackling hard, vacuuming up anything loose and refusing to pass back. In another sign of France's new-found soccer obsession, an estimated 150,000 people watched the annual military parade on the Champs Elysées, roughly one tenth of the number who turned out on the boulevard on Sunday night to celebrate the World Cup win.

In a televised interview to mark the national holiday yesterday, M Chirac stuck firmly to the uplifting football theme: "I think that one of the lessons to be drawn from the last few days is that a modern politician must not just say, 'I will give you this' but also, 'I am going

to help you to become this'. One must be aware of the social, cultural and psychological aspirations of society."

Building on the mood of racial harmony in France after the win by the nation's multiracial team, M Chirac took the opportunity to take a swipe at the anti-immigrant National Front which campaigns in favour of "national preference" for French people.

The President said that the notion of denying foreigners with residence permits the same rights as French citizens was not compatible "with humanist, democratic and republican principles".

World Cup, pages 45, 48

Up with new rules Germans will have to put

By MATTHIAS WULF

THE German Constitutional Court finally cleared the way for the controversial reform of the German language yesterday, rejecting a legal challenge by a couple demanding the right to teach their three sons their mother tongue as they had learnt it.

Every government office and school in all German-speaking countries will be obliged to use the new rules from August 1.

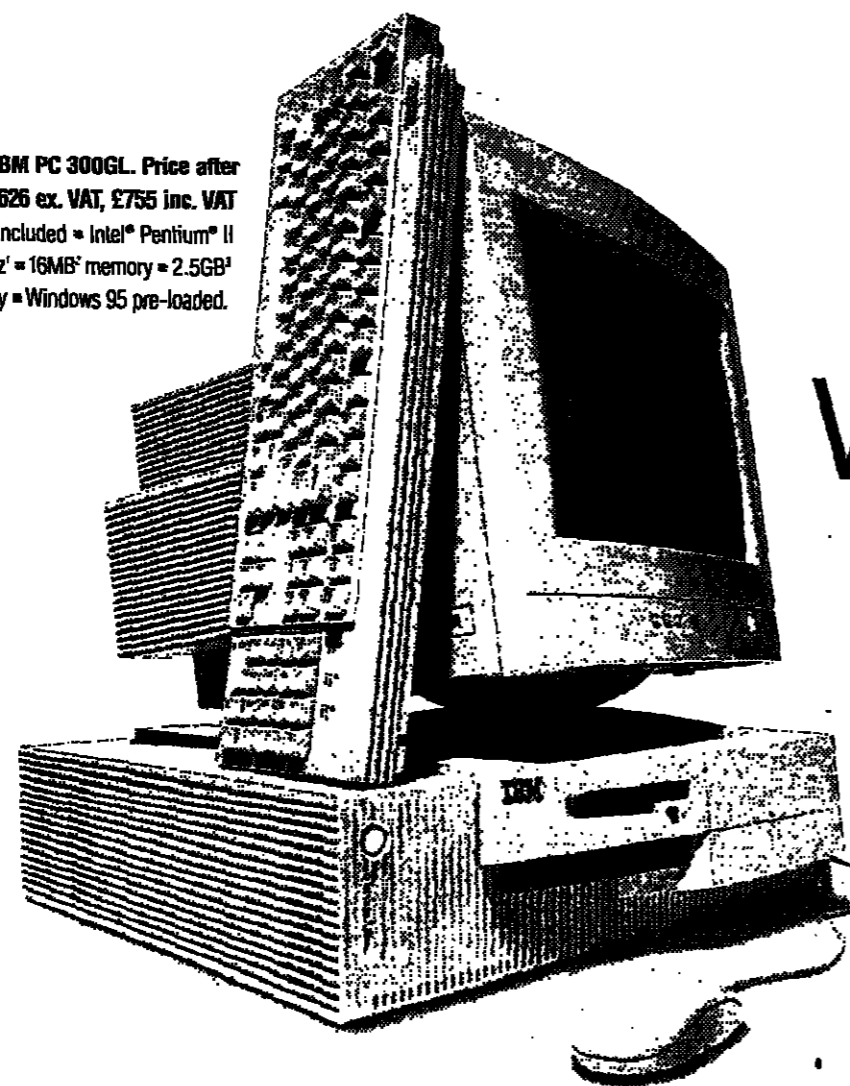
These aim to simplify the language's complicated spelling and use of commas. The 52 comma rules have been reduced to nine, and the use of the *Eszett*, the symbol for a double s, has been restricted.

Herauszuwickeln, for example, used to describe reversing your Volkswagen out of a tight parking space, becomes much simpler if separated into *heraus zu wickeln*. But, on the other hand, river transport, *Fluss-schiffahrt*, gains two letters and becomes *Flus-schiffahrt*, where the double use of triple letters is irritating even to German eyes. Foreign words are being Germanised: even restaurant becomes *Restaurant*.

Critics say that, while the new rules eliminate around 800 words, they create between 500 and 1,000 new words, and that the changes which were meant to simplify the language create new complications.

Experiments in schools where the new spelling has been introduced show pupils still make as many mistakes.

Peter Eisenberg, Professor of Linguistics at Potsdam University, was quoted by *Der Spiegel* as saying that schoolchildren would be the most confused. "If teachers expect clarity from the new rules, they only find chaos and frustration. In some cases, it is catastrophic."



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صكزامن الأصل

Grandson seeks to clear name of Dr Mudd for treating Lincoln's assassin



A contemporary engraving of Lincoln at the theatre

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FOR 133 years his name has been mud, but descendants of the doctor who treated Abraham Lincoln's assassin were filing an unusual lawsuit yesterday designed to rehabilitate one of the most enigmatic figures in American history. It has taken seven decades for the family of Dr Samuel Mudd to bring their case to court, and a federal judge is now poised to decide on the reputation of the physician who tended to John Wilkes Booth. Final briefs were filed yesterday and Judge Paul Friedman has indicated that he will rule on the Mudd case shortly. However, while the decision

may conclude the family's legal battle, it is unlikely to end the controversy. The Mudd story has been debated by historians ever since the assassination in Lincoln's box at Ford's Theatre in Washington DC on April 14, 1865. It became the subject of John Ford's *The Prisoner of Shark Island* in 1936 and has now found its way into Congress where a Bill is before the House Armed Services Committee demanding that Mudd be exonerated. Accepted as historical fact is that Booth, 26, a popular actor and Southern sympathiser, shot the President but then became entangled by a spur while leaping from the box and broke his shinbone. Riding into Maryland, he stopped at the doctor's farmhouse to have his leg set. Mudd

later told authorities of the 'visit' but said he had not recognised his patient. Booth was later shot dead by Union troops in a Virginia tobacco barn. At the heart of yesterday's case was the subsequent trial by a military court in which Mudd and seven others were convicted of aiding and abetting the assassin. Four were hanged, and Mudd, who missed the gallows by one vote, was sentenced to life in prison on an island off the Florida Keys, where he was pardoned four years later by President Andrew Johnson for his efforts to stem a yellow fever epidemic. In 1992 Richard Mudd persuaded a US Army review board to set aside his grandfather's conviction on the ground that he was a civilian and should not have been tried by a

military court. The ruling came 68 years after Mr Mudd first started a campaign to clear his ancestor's name. But Secretaries of the Army for both Presidents Bush and Clinton have overruled the board and said the jurisdictional issue was resolved at the time. In yesterday's claim against Togo West, the current Secretary, Mr Mudd, 97, argues that the original conviction has resulted in lasting damage to the family's reputation. "My grandfather was only a doctor doing his duty to his patient," he said. Other experts believe that the conviction should remain. James Hall, 84, a former investigator for the US Army who has followed the case, said last night that Mudd was involved in a previous plot to kidnap Lincoln.



Samuel Mudd: jailed

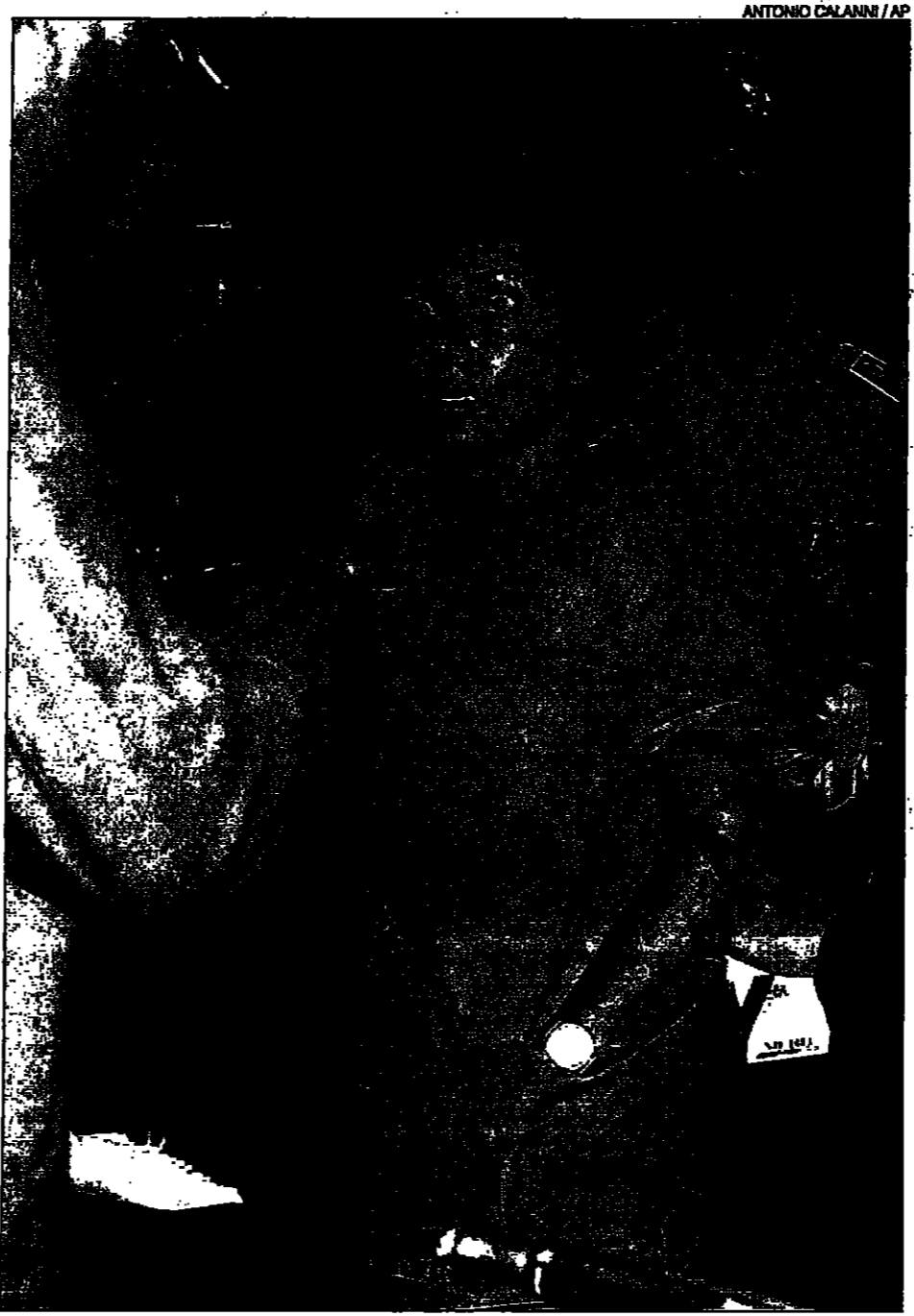
'Black Widow' admits wanting Gucci to die

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE former wife of Maurizio Gucci, who is charged with ordering the fashion heir's murder in March 1995, yesterday denied that she had been behind the killing. During cross-examination by Carlo Nocerini, the Milan public prosecutor, Patrizia Reggiani, 50 - giving evidence for the first time since the trial opened in May - admitted that after her divorce from Gucci in 1992 she had wanted her ex-husband dead and had "asked various people if they could find a killer". But she denied "categorically" she had gone so far as to carry out her wish to see Gucci killed. Signora Reggiani, who in her heyday rose from humble origins to become the queen of Milan high society with an extravagant lifestyle of yachts, mansions and fashionable parties, appeared a much reduced figure. A drawn and agitated shadow of her former glamorous self, she seemed barely able to walk and had to be helped into the witness box. Last week Signora Reggiani - dubbed the "Black Widow" by the Italian press - failed to appear in court after her defence lawyers said she had suffered a stroke and was paralysed in one leg. Signora

Reggiani is on trial with Pina Aurieremma, her former clairvoyant and confidante, Ivano Savioni, a Naples hotel night porter (and Signora Aurieremma's lover), and two alleged hitmen from the Naples underworld, Orazio Cicala and Benedetto Ceraulo. Earlier in the trial Signora Cicala told the court that Signora Reggiani had been present at meetings in Milan during which the killing was allegedly plotted, and had offered him "big money to do the job". He admitted he had driven the getaway car, but said the fatal shots had been fired not by Signora Ceraulo but by another hired hitman, whom he declined to name "because I have a family". Two weeks ago Signora Aurieremma testified that Signora Reggiani had offered her £213,000 as a down payment for finding gunmen willing to kill Gucci. Signora Reggiani said she and Gucci had been described as the most beautiful couple in the world when they married in 1972 (against his father's wishes), she said. But then Gucci, who she claims was often impotent, had become embroiled in risky business ventures that eventually led

him to sell his last remaining shares in the Gucci family business, and he had withdrawn from her. "Maurizio disappointed me," she said. "I tried to rediscover in him the beautiful soul I had known, but all I found was a wall." Signora Reggiani has admitted that she nursed an "insatiable hatred" for her ex-husband, and was incensed when he not only reduced her alimony payments after their initial separation in 1984 but also took up with another woman, Paola Franchi, the interior designer. The prosecution has produced extracts from Signora Reggiani's diary, which contains remarks such as "there is no crime which cannot be bought". The entry for March 27, 1995, when Gucci, 46, was shot outside his Milan office, is the single word *paradiseos* (paradise in Greek). The Gucci's driver, Luciano Punta, and his wife Alda Rizzi, who was their housekeeper, have both testified that Signora Reggiani asked them how to go about finding a hitman, and admitted to the killing after it had taken place. But Signora Reggiani insists that Signora Aurieremma carried out her desire to see Gucci dead without consulting her.



Patrizia Reggiani arrives in court yesterday to give evidence in the murder trial

Jakarta acts to halt terror by military elite

BY DAVID WATTS

IN THE first substantial sign that the Indonesian Government may be ready to tackle abuse of military power, seven members of the feared special forces have been arrested for the kidnapping and torture of political activists. The men are members of the elite praetorian guard who, until the resignation of President Suharto, were commanded by his son-in-law, Lieutenant-General Prabowo Subianto. The arrests come as President Habibie has managed to consolidate his position after the election of his chosen candidate as head of the huge Golkar political organisation. The army yesterday admitted the illegal detentions and said the soldiers would be brought before a military court. All the detainees were kidnapped and tortured for days before being released with the warning that they and their families would be "eliminated" if they spoke about what had happened. If a full investigation is carried out, it can only lead to the highest levels of the military. The army also conceded there was evidence that the riots of May 13 and 14 had been engineered. At the time, *The Times* reported that East Timorese refugees who had been in the care of the security forces were seen being taken to areas where rioting subsequently

broke out. Anti-Chinese violence has in the past been instigated by the Government as a means of deflecting attention. Harrowing new evidence of the vicious attacks on Chinese women during the May rioting emerged last night as new figures put the total number of victims at more than 160, of whom more than 20 did not survive. Many suffered multiple rapes and the youngest victim was nine years old. "They screamed, 'Let's butcher the Chinese; let's eat pigs; let's have a party,'" the attackers chanted as they raided a Jakarta apartment building, according to an e-mail account by an 18-year-old victim writing under the pseudonym of Vivian. About 60 attackers entered the building. Her sister Venny was caught first. "There were about five people who raped Venny and before beginning everyone always said, 'Allahu akbar [God is greatest]. They were ferocious, brutal. "Not long afterwards, nine men came and dragged me. When she was raped, Venny kept fighting and so she was slapped repeatedly by her attackers. The last time she fought she spat on one of them. Offended, the man grabbed a knife and stabbed Venny's stomach. Brutally he did it repeatedly until Venny drew her last breath with blood all over her."

New hint of Chinese campaign aid to Clinton

Washington: Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, yesterday demanded an independent investigation into fundraising by the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign after receiving new information about China's attempts to influence American politics (Tom Rhodes writes).

The leading Republican, in an announcement that caught the White House off guard, said that a Senate investigation into US satellite exports to China had concluded that Beijing received military benefits and sensitive technology from the transfers. He said new facts had come to light that "should remove all resistance to naming an independent counsel" to examine Chinese efforts to buy influence at the White House. "In violation of stated US policy, sensitive technology related to satellite exports has been

transferred to China," he said. The statement came amid reports that US intelligence had discovered a bridge between American satellite technology and China's ability to deploy multiple warheads on strategic missiles. At issue is whether President Clinton and his possible successor, Vice-President Al Gore, had traded national security interests for illegal donations to their re-election.

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Gays led astray by reform hotline

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN unsuspecting electrician in Alabama has been inundated with telephone calls after a religious group put the wrong freephone number on a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times* offering homosexuals help in becoming straight. The number was meant to put homosexuals in touch with an "ex-gay ministry" that would transform them with the teachings of Jesus Christ. The advertisement told the story of a former lesbian who through prayer and faith in God became a loving wife and mother.

But the freephone number listed at the bottom of the page began with the digits "800" instead of the newer prefix "888". Instead of reaching Exodus International, an umbrella group of organisations that "help men and women deal with homosexuality in a Christian way", the calls rang at the offices of Byron Griffin, an electrical contractor in Alabama. A bemused Mr Griffin received dozens of calls, half of them protesting about the advertisement. "A lot of them had an attitude," he said. "It's strange to be involved in this kind of thing. We're not as liberal here as they are in New York City." Exodus apologised for the error, and thanked Mr Griffin for his courtesy in forwarding many of the calls. Meanwhile gay rights activists are preparing to respond with their own advertising blitz.

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That's enough bonding, I resign

Employers believe that activity courses build team spirit. Daniel McGrory wonders why

The £60,000-a-year bond trader could not fathom how being left in a cave soaking wet and blindfolded was going to make him a better salesman and a happier colleague.

His employers had paid £500 for Peter Murray to take part in an outdoor development course in the Lake District and made it clear that if he wanted his annual bonus he would be wise to attend.

As a final challenge Murray, 35, and nine dishevelled and hungry colleagues were abandoned in the cave, told to wait an hour and then find their way back in the dark. In his report on this week-long adventure in the wild, Murray wrote that he would resign rather than endure such misery again.

He also pointed out that those managers who thought this an excellent way to foster leadership skills were conspicuous by their absence when he and his team were wading across a swollen river with a field gun on their shoulders.

"I don't see how me pretending to be in the SAS for a week helps me to make money, or living on just a Mars Bar for a day is going to bond me to my colleagues. I hated them all by the end of the week."

Murray escaped with cuts and a twisted knee and was thus more fortunate than the seven trainee life insurance sales staff from Cheltenham who ended up in hospital this week after being asked to walk barefoot across a tray of burning coals at the end of their "motivational course".

Their employer, Eagle Star Life, agreed with some embarrassment yesterday that "a trial by fire seemed a bit harsh for new recruits". A spokesman said: "This was the first time we had used this activity company and we will be reviewing whether to hire it again. Previous courses have been a great success."

Big-name companies are estimated to be spending £550 million a year dragging staff on to activity courses which occupational psychologists claim build team spirit and foster a more harmonious working environment.

The more sedentary your job, the more likely you are to find yourself dressed in fatigues tackling an assault course, Philippa Cowell, 23, a human resources manager, nearly drowned on her activity



Climb every mountain, ford every stream: the more sedentary your job, the more likely you are to find yourself dressed in unfamiliar fatigues, tackling an assault course

weekend in Wales recently and promptly persuaded her company to drop the idea for future recruits. "I was taken in by the psycho guff but it's only a few who love all that stuff, so why force everyone? Firms say it's voluntary but you have to be pretty brave to say no."

The problem seems to be that companies seek outlandish challenges to test their employees' mettle. Firewalking is growing in popularity as a way of showing your motiva-

tion (the trick apparently is to let nervous participants think that the coals are scorching when, in fact, they have been left to cool for so long that they acquire a layer of insulating ash). Some courses persuade staff to undress in front of each other "to get rid of inhibitions and shyness" and then say what they think of the boss while he sits opposite them in his Y-fronts.

Guy Baker, the managing director of Catalyst Event

Management which designs activity courses, says: "This sort of cod psychology in the name of outdoor training is, frankly, money for old rope."

When Microsoft asked Baker to devise an activity for a recent conference, he turned 350 people into a fully working samba orchestra in two hours. He then hired a troupe of Irish dancers to perform to the Microsoft beat.

Employees are regularly invited to recreate favourite

films such as *Gone With The Wind*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and when the conference is at the seaside, *Jaws*. Staff can also learn pottery and then smash what they have made, or work with graffiti artists to portray their firm's message through five-metre square cartoons, which they then have to colour in. "We don't go in for commando-style exercises," Baker says. "Without being sexist, it puts women at a disadvantage. It is pointless just making your staff feel wet and miserable."

He explains that the firewalking exercise is favoured by practitioners of NLP, Neuro Linguistic Programming, which, rather predictably, is a science borrowed from American boardrooms. The idea is to reprogramme the way your brain receives information. After an intensive course of at least ten 12-hour days, participants are invited to a spectacular finale which involves firewalking, breaking bricks with

bare hands or group hypnosis when, through auto-suggestion, you get colleagues to respond to your commands.

Wayne Moss, an event management broker for Jarvis Woodhouse, offers clients "The Bomb Programme". Teams have to compete in a muddy version of television's *Crystal Maze* on a 20-acre woodland where they abseil, build bridges and cross streams to collect enough clues for them to defuse a bomb.

The trend is for companies to offer these "participation days" rather than just take you for a drink at Henley or Ascot. Surely it's more beneficial and more fun to fly a Tiger Moth in the morning and then drive a tank in the afternoon instead of watching a Test match?

Jane Moreland, the business development manager of Outward Bound Professional, says: "In the field you can prac-

tise being a leader and it gives someone a greater opportunity to experiment than in an office." She tailors courses for firms such as Unilever, which uses the activities to test if its graduate trainees are made of the right stuff.

Kodak brings along an academic to test leadership qualities, British Aerospace uses it as an assessment centre and the National Association of Steel Stockholders has an annual competition climaxing in the Tyrolean Traverse, where you go over open water suspended by a wire.

For those whose employers are intent on them attending some sort of course, then consider that two recent innovations involve spending a weekend making and then eating a box of chocolates. Even more attractive is the suggestion of a corporate wine challenge where you are invited to test vintages and blend your own. A hangover is a better prospect than burnt feet.

TRIAL BY FIRE

I am the proud owner of a framed certificate which declares that, on May 24, 1989, before assembled witnesses in the car park of the Howard Johnson motel outside Boston, "Ben Macintyre performed the miraculous".

"He has obtained the skills and met the challenge that places him in the ranks of FIREWALKER," the document declares.

A few days before that certificate was issued, I had made the mistake of mentioning, to a notoriously cruel and heartless newspaper editor, that American businesses had come up with the idiotic notion that walking on hot coals was an aid to self-confidence.

"Bonkers, isn't it?" I said.

"On the plane," he said.

And so, against my better judgment, I found myself standing before what looked like a vast funeral pyre, alongside a group of men and women whose self-confidence was visibly draining by the second. We drank some Ezy wine. We held hands and chanted "Om". We wrote down our greatest fears, then ceremonially threw the paper into the flames. We signed waivers saying we wouldn't sue. We watched a video in which tribal dancers impaled themselves on spears and thrust burning torches into their mouths.

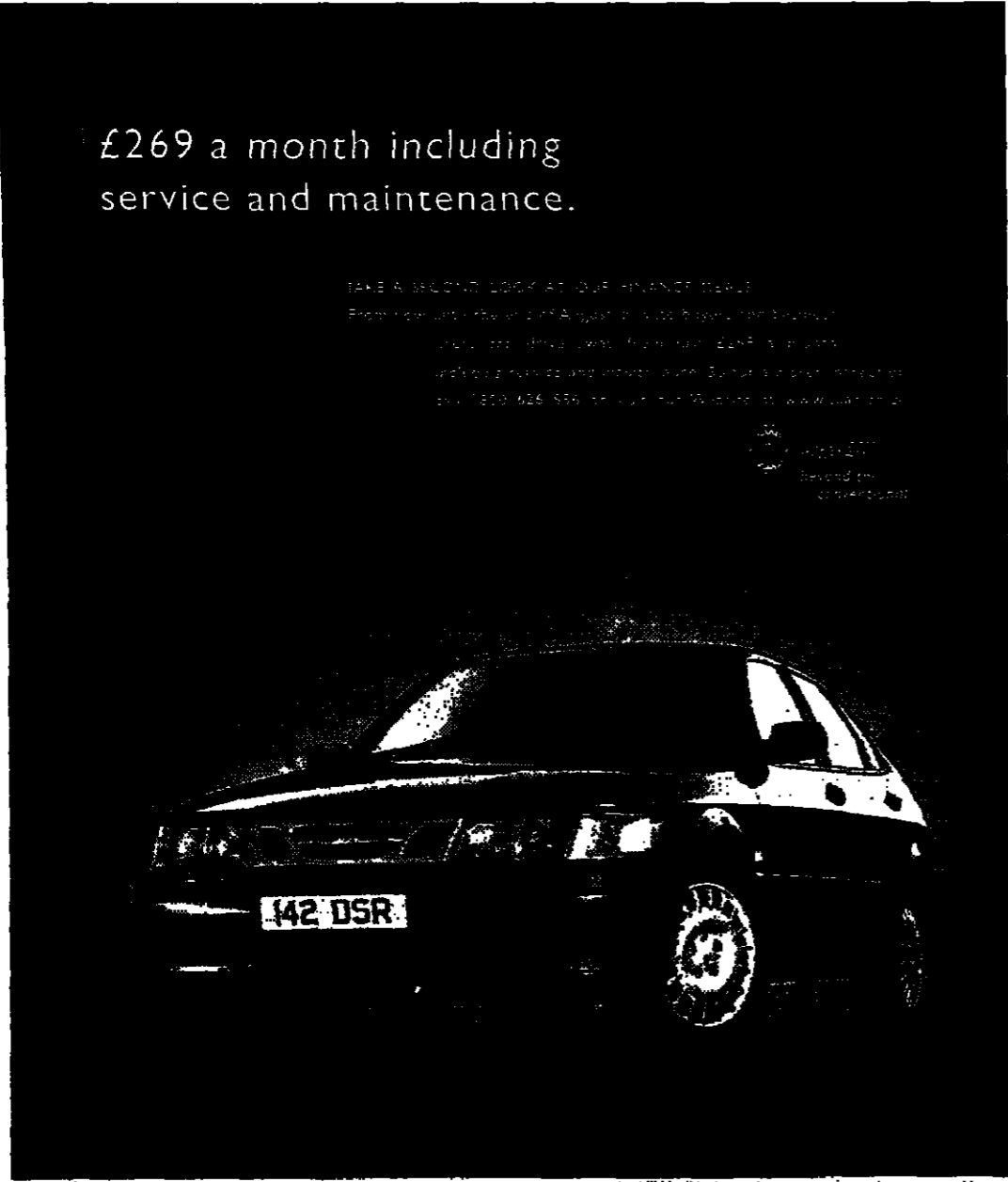
All the while "Dr" Hart of the "Institute for Human Potential", delivered a seamless stream of New Age nonsense about how happy and strong we were all feeling. At least one of us was feeling violently sick.

Finally, the good doctor raked out the coals, declared them "perfect", whipped off his shoes and socks and stroked across the smoking pit, grinning maniacally. One by one we followed him. At the other end our feet were hosed down by a man from the Massachusetts Fire Department.

It did not hurt, but my feet tingled oddly for several days. That, I suspect, was the miracle wearing off.

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How will Tiger Lily cope?

It is a familiar sight: a mother and toddler playing together in the park. As any parent knows, this is sometimes fun and sometimes just a way of killing a few hours between lunchtime and bath, or before the slavish timekeeping of an older sibling's school run.

But for Paula Yates and her daughter Tiger Lily, these snatched moments of relaxation are rare glimpses of normality in a deeply troubled life. Paula, 38, is being treated for depression at the Priory Clinic in West London, after allegedly attempting to commit suicide by the same method as her rock-star lover, Michael Hutchence, who was found hanging in his hotel room in November.

In her short life, Tiger Lily, who is two next week, has witnessed extraordinary emotional turbulence, from her mother's acrimonious divorce to her father's death and funeral and now her mother's breakdown. While Paula visits the clinic, her three daughters by Bob Geldof are being cared for by their father, but Tiger Lily is looked after by family friends.

For those parents who struggle to build a citadel of security around their family, the effect on such a young child is unimaginable.

Like most mothers of young children, I spend my life repeating the mind-numbing rituals of childhood: the same breakfast cereal for a month, the same favourite song-tapes, the comfort of familiar bedtime stories and goodnight kisses, the delaying of marital rows until the children are asleep to create an atmosphere of security and calm in which your offspring will supposedly thrive and learn.

Perhaps we underestimate our children's ability to cope with the slings and arrows of life. Is it possible to judge what imprint the chaos of her domestic situation will be leaving on Tiger Lily? According to child experts, the death of Hutchence, which presumably sparked Paula's depression, will have had little direct effect on such a young child. But the knock-on effect is what she may remember, says Dr John Pearce, Professor of Child Psychiatry at Nottingham University and the author of several books on children's behaviour.

"At two, a child's attachment to people is still not firmly fixed. They can't maintain a permanent image of the missing person in their mind," Pearce says. "In the

Paula Yates's youngest daughter needs stability, says Sally Morris



Time out for Paula and Tiger Lily

case of bereavement, this can be a helpful thing because the child is not directly affected by the loss of a parent. But they are greatly affected by the actions of the remaining parent.

"A young child will take its emotional cues from those around it. So if the parent is not coping and the child is surrounded by turmoil, it will pick up the insecurity, and whether they are offering it routine, stability, calmness. Children of this age don't need to be overstimulated. They learn how to handle the world around them by repetition. If different things happen to them every day, then they can't concentrate on anything sufficiently to deal with it.

"The other point about adults who are emotionally traumatised is whether they appreciate what the child is going through. It is normal to be self-obsessed when dealing with problems, but this can child is showing problems of its own."

So does the answer to Tiger Lily's future stability lie in the catch-all solution of the

1990s: counselling? Would there be any point in this for a child as young as two? Pearce is not convinced.

"It is important to talk to a child about what is happening, but it must be at the appropriate time. With young children, this 'right time' won't necessarily coincide with a counselling appointment. It is usually best done by someone close to them, and at a time when the child feels like talking. Taking a child to counselling can often be more helpful to the parents — it lets them feel that they are dealing with the problem.

"As far as the death of a parent is concerned, it's also important to remember that death is a perfectly normal part of life, and one needs to be careful about rushing children into counselling for what is essentially a normal occurrence."

For older children, the trauma is different. They are less dependent on parental reactions in order to determine their own. Pearce explains: "By the time children reach eight or so, their own reactions will dominate when they are faced with emotional upheaval. They will also have distinctive characters, and some children naturally deal with things — an easier way than others.

"Their healing process from emotional trauma is similar to that of a physical wound, and you must be careful that you don't interfere with it. Physical wounds heal best if they are left open to the air, and emotional problems shouldn't be hidden away either. But nor should they be constantly reopened or they will never heal. They will leave a scar, but that doesn't have to be disabling.

"What a young child in this situation needs is for the parent to bring routine, calm and stability into their life, to see the parent coping with things."

Paula Yates is the product of a volatile and unstable background. What everybody around her must be hoping for is that she can eventually provide her vulnerable offspring, the product of a doomed relationship, with tedious trips to the supermarket, afternoons trampling Hay-Doh into the carpet and evenings tucked up in bed with Fireman Sam or Percy the Park Keeper.

It's a routine that doesn't do much for the average mother's mental welfare. But for Paula and Tiger Lily, it could be just what the doctor ordered.

سكرا من الاصل

resign

'There are people who lead double lives... I can't'

Television's unlikeliest star on being sacked and being gay. Interview by Moira Petty

Amid the tumult behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House, as revealed by the documentary *The House*, one figure emerged singing his arias of rage and disdain the loudest.

Keith Cooper, the Nicole Farhi-clad marketing director, caught on camera in a frenzy of phone flinging and firing of staff that reached a climax with the sacking of the box office manager, was himself dismissed in February.

He was on the streets for only ten days before being commissioned by BBC2 to make a follow-up to the 1996 film.

The sequel, *Trouble at the House*, relies more on analysis and interviews than flies on walls but the elegant, silver-haired Cooper remains a constant. "I'm on screen quite a lot," he admits. He now fancies a career as a TV pundit.

"Making the programme got me through a difficult patch after the sacking. For one thing I needed the money. I didn't get my pay-off for four months. I was bitter. It's humiliating to be sacked.

"I was worried about telling my mother, who's 85. She just said 'You must have seen it coming'. I didn't, though. We'd just bought this house and she was concerned about the mortgage."

Cooper's partner is Ingi Jonsson, a restaurateur who swam for Finland at two Olympics. Their 1880s house in Acton, West London, is full of pale soft furnishings (no sticky little fingers to mark them) and huge, dramatic urns. In the conservatory kitchen is a shelf full of *World of Interiors*. Should the *Hello!* photographer pop by, they will be ready and waiting.

Outside is a floodlit pond, installed by the previous owners. "A bit camp," says Cooper

spikily. He tries to coax the goldfish up with treats. They play dead, as reluctant to surface as a brace of box-office managers about to be sacked.

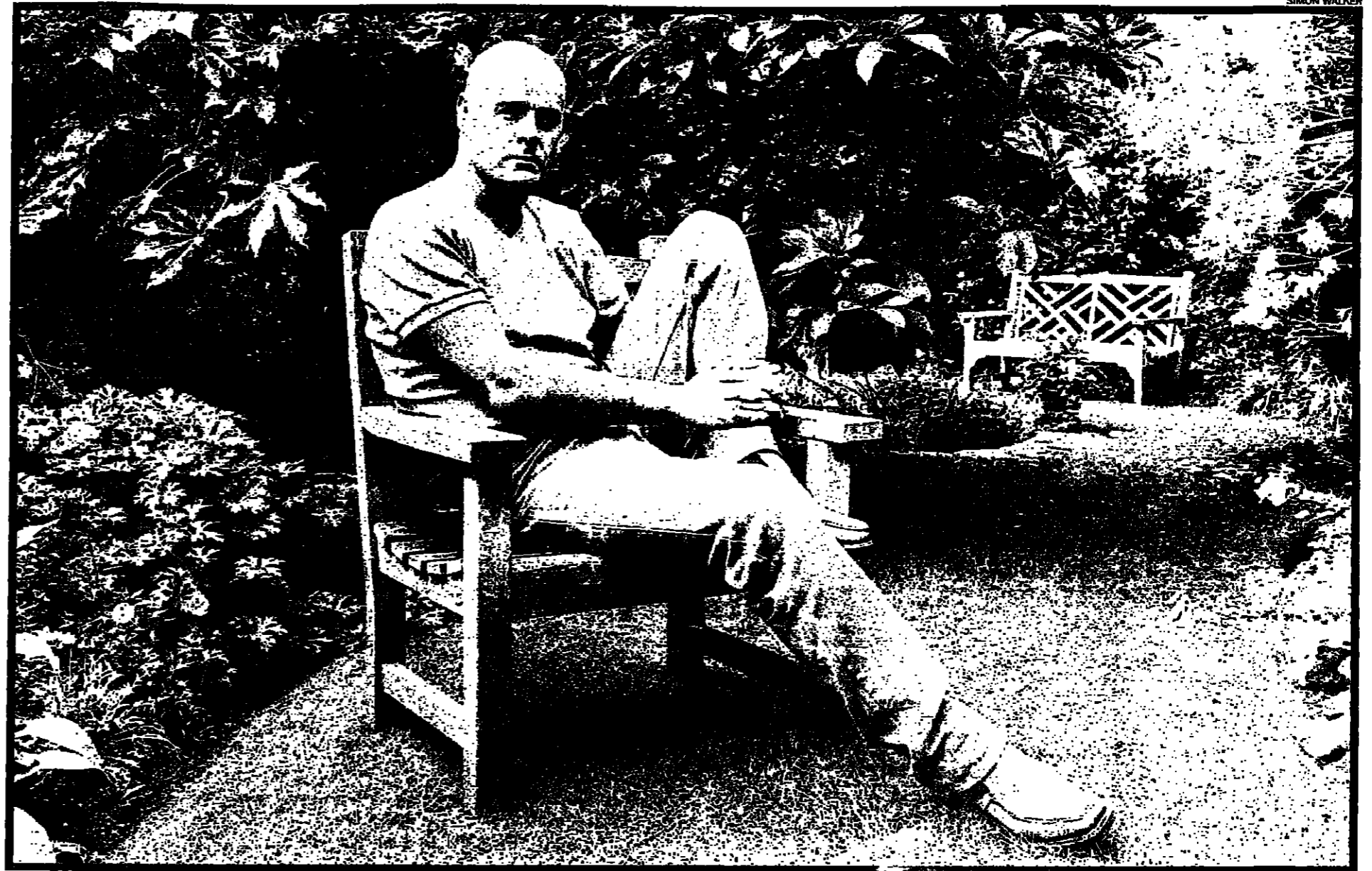
Most theatrical of all is a shiny grand piano that dominates the drawing room. It says a lot about Cooper: about the performer manque; about the boy from a suburban, secondary modern school background, where golf and gardening were favoured above the arts; and most of all about his uncertain relationship with his Glaswegian father, who accepted but never understood his son's homosexuality.

Cooper's father, John, a former physiotherapist, died aged 73 in 1984. "He had a heart attack in his fifties, then suffered from angina and cancer," says Cooper, 41. "The illness changed our relationship but we never quite resolved things. I don't think he ever really told me that he was proud of me but I think he was."

"He left me a bit of money and rather than pay off my Visa bill I thought I'd buy something I would really treasure. The piano is a nice way of remembering him. It's a bit like a sports car that goes from zero to 120 in a few seconds but I can't let rip on it in a semi."

Cooper was brought up just outside Worthing. His mother, Vivienne, a chiropodist, was 44 when he was born and his widowed father a year older. By the time Cooper was 18 and ready to declare his sexuality, his parents were in their sixties and of a generation that might well not have understood.

"I think my mother had twigged because I had a friend I was getting very close to. I announced that I was thinking of moving in with him. My mother said 'You know what that will mean?', then shut herself



After being sacked from the Royal Opera House, Keith Cooper was inundated with offers of modelling — although Nicole Farhi decided he was "too chunky and too tall"

in her bedroom for the afternoon to think about it. Later we took the dog for a walk and she said 'This is not going to be difficult for me as long as you don't tell me what you do in bed'. I said 'I have no intention of telling you what I do in bed'.

"When something like that happens there is a bond that gets strengthened, but a sadness as well. My mother would have loved grandchildren but she was selfless about it. I wish I was more like her."

"My father never again talked about it. But when I brought partners, potential partners or ex-partners back he was always friendly."

Cooper was never tempted to lie about his personal life although women have sometimes got the wrong signals. One French courtesan, says Jeremy Isaacs, the former ROH chief executive, offered money for Cooper's body.

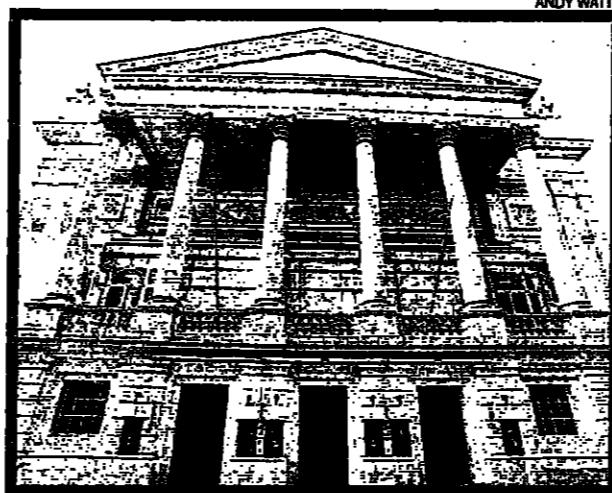
"Some people lead a double life — I couldn't, nor would I want to. I've always felt comfortable with my sexuality. I always knew what I was. I realised from things such as watching *Tarzan* on TV."

There have been three "big" relationships. He spent six years with a theatre designer and, during his last year with the English National Opera, and for most of his time at the ROH, he was with someone in catering.

A year ago Cooper met Jonsson. "He is the most important and supportive thing in my life." Jonsson had devotedly nursed his previous partner through an illness of which he died only six months before the meeting with Cooper.

"I was careful about what I asked Ingi because it was sensitive. At first we lived in the flat he had had with his partner, Michael. I was aware of another presence but it was a warm one, there was no jealousy."

Recently they were walking



The ROH takes centre stage again in *Trouble at the House*

in the Dales with a friend of Cooper whose husband had died. "Ingi didn't know her well and I'd never been able to talk to her about her husband's death. But they talked about coping with death and how the person lives on in you."

"As I listened, I thought that there was a part of him that I could never expect to understand. But there was never a sense of my trying to replace Michael. There are photos of him around and I look at them and it strengthens the relationship I have with Ingi."

Cooper was the only child of his parents' marriage. There was a half-brother, 14 years older, who had joined the Merchant Navy and left home by the time Cooper was aware of his existence. John Cooper's first wife died in her thirties.

"My father had a tough beginning in Glasgow and he had a rather sad life. I'm like him, physically and in personality. We shared a polite arrogance. He was tough but kind and loved to be the centre of attention."

"My mother is remarkable but I don't feel I really know her. She had looked after her

one indulgence and we went to a musical once a year."

He was not unhappy at not getting into the grammar school as it was "a bit posh". At 17 he left home when, having learnt to drive, he stayed out all night. "When I drove up the next morning, my mother threw my clothes out of the bedroom window. She didn't mollycoddle me. She was very keen for me to make my life on my own."

He left school at around the same time, after A levels. He headed for an employment agency in the only bit of London with which he was familiar: Regent Street, where his parents used to take him to see the Christmas lights.

His ability to type earned him a job as a PA to a female executive at A&M Records. "She'd already hired someone but she fancied having a guy." A&M's star signing, the Police, had just had their first No 1 single. "I didn't know much about pop. I was more interested in

discovering London and took myself off at a fast pace to the opera. At 20, I was reasonable-looking and hit a gay circle and did the rounds."

After an arts administration course, he worked for the touring company Opera North, then was hired by the ENO. The advertising posters of sopranos in negliges ("Lesley Garrett's a gift") and bare-chested stage hands made his name, and Isaacs took him to lunch "somewhere grand and said he wanted that for the ROH. But we were never able to produce that kind of campaign as events overtook us."

Cooper was inundated with modelling offers after *The House*. Nicole Farhi wanted him but decided he was "too chunky and, at 6ft 3in, too tall". He did advertise sunglasses for Yoji Yamamoto and appeared in a fashion spread in *L'Uomo Vogue*. He then worked at Jonsson's res-

taurant, Gallery One Twenty, in Shepherds Bush. "Now I can even be trusted with the cappuccino machine." The pair are considering setting up a larger restaurant.

Television, though, is where his hopes are pinned. He is planning a series on institutions, such as the Church, monarchy and sporting world, that have gone through image changes. He is convinced that the day of the "presenter-led factual programme" is back.

He swears he is not trying, in his ROH programme, "to shaft my ex-employer". He has persuaded Mary Allen, the chief executive who sacked him and followed him out of the door only a month later, to talk. "She said she was sorry and asked how I was. She felt I'd been damaged by the organisation. I am interested in what causes the mother to eat her babies."

●*Trouble at the House* is on BBC2 on July 20 at 9.30pm.

Lily cope

School's out, home's in

Chris Parrish sits at a computer with his child's little blond head nuzzling his face and says: "I wonder 'How could I live without this?'"

He and his wife Beverly plan to teach all their children — Benjamin, 13, Luke, 11, Andrew, eight, Hannah, four, and Seth, 20 months — themselves from their kitchen table in a green suburb of Austin, the capital of Texas.

Fifteen years ago their choice would have been eccentric. But Texas now has 75,000 families doing the same, more than any other state, to the point where they are an identifiable political force. Governor George Bush even declared a Home Education Week.

But controversy over home-schooling has not dwindled as its popularity has grown. Teachers and psychologists worry about the effects, particularly in states such as Texas, where parents do not need to notify schools that they are withdrawing their children or submit them to standard tests. British parents are watching keenly. Concern about bullying and low standards has pushed up the numbers who reckon they can do better themselves. Regulation is tighter than in many US states; British parents have a legal responsibility to make sure that their child receives an "efficient", full-time education. But Education Otherwise, the large-

Home-schooling is big in Texas, reports Bronwen Maddox



Chris and Beverly Parrish teach all their five children

est organisation representing home-schoolers, estimates that there are 10,000 families today, compared with almost none 20 years ago.

If home-schooling is going to work, it is in families like the Parrishes. Beverly, 37, and Chris, 39, are bright, articulate, and self-disciplined. She has a college degree in sociology and he trained at the US Merchant Marine Academy.

They turned their backs on established schools. Beverly says, because "I want to raise leaders and thinkers. When I was in high school they made fun of you for getting good grades." Other parents cite a

project with him. They have had a few worries. Luke was slow to read, and Chris confesses "a little anxiety" about teaching Hannah, who has Down's syndrome. The house can also feel crowded; with Chris starting his own business, "there are six or seven people in the house 24 hours a day". But like other families pleased with their choice, they have found that their children rank several years above their age in standard tests.

However, concern about home-schooling does not stem from families such as the Parrishes. Schools point to parents who are barely literate removing their children from school.

Universities worry that home lessons are not academically challenging. They agree that exceptional talent usually surfaces: home-schoolers' favourite examples include Agatha Christie, Thomas Edison, Bertrand Russell, Charlie Chaplin and Noël Coward.

But for many children, a curriculum focusing on reading, spelling, grammar, maths and good citizenship may prove narrow. The fiercest criticism comes from psychologists, who argue that in all but orderly families, home-schooling becomes a hot-house in which strains are magnified. If the family works, homeschooling probably works, they say. But if it doesn't, the children suffer.

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The special conditions include an engine, accessories may be required in certain circumstances. All applications are subject to credit checks. Rates and terms are correct as of publication. APR does not apply to the £1,405 deposit and £13,620 advance. The August 1998, for example, is applicable to the Saab lease or rental plus contract year total. £14

It's worth a double take.

OK for stars - pity about the stripes

Bronwen Maddox asks: what has the boom done to America?

I can't be the only one to think it odd that Ralph Lauren picked up most of the \$18 million tab for repairing the original Star Spangled Banner. The 40ft flag, which flew defiantly over the British assault on Fort Mifflin on September 13, 1814, was the inspiration for one of the world's most stirring, if unsingable, national anthems. It now hangs on show in Washington, as damp-eyed crowds shuffle past; every few months there is a horror story about airborne particles of denim building up on the canvas.

It's very good of Ralph to step in with the biggest-ever corporate donation to the Smithsonian Institution. It clearly does no harm to his fashion empire's wholesome, all-American image. The flag neatly accessorises the classic, white and blue of his summer beachwear collections. But it's like turning to Richard Branson and Virgin Airways to patch up the Crown Jewels. If ever there were a popular

restaurant, But suggestions that government should spend small amounts of money to provide something of a safety net, or to reform the tax and healthcare codes to make the transition to work less risky, have all fallen on deaf congressional ears.

At the same time, prosperity has given rise to unfocused aggression against successful businesses. The tobacco industry has been saved from near-bankruptcy by carrying out its legal business only because Congress failed to agree on how much it should be punished. The breast implant industry has not been so lucky, for all the lack of firm scientific evidence that its products caused the problems alleged. The Administration and Congress appear to have decided to "do something" about Bill Gates, although with no clear sense of what anti-trust policy should try to achieve. It is a curious sight to see a country that is supposedly wedded to free-market principles so confused about how to treat the source of its prosperity.

A shame the US is making poor use of good times

To be generous, you might say that this political maladroitness in handling wealth stems from fear that it will disappear. That would be justified, as ever more of the world map is coloured red for financial crisis. Who could not sympathise with the Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, looking for a time to make an exit from his Washington career that will not damage one financial rescue or another.

That would, though, be too generous. There should be more fear in Washington — and awareness of America's self-interest — about the threat of uncontrolled currency devaluations in Russia, Japan, or elsewhere in Asia. Congress's reluctance to give funds to the International Monetary Fund is scarcely believable.

The boom will not last; there are already signs of a slowdown. Yet the Clinton presidency will be remembered for the economic phenomenon as much as for Monica. For the moment, the country is awash in money; the federal deficit has vanished and the state coffers are bulging. There are good, unanswered questions about why this has happened. Yet some answers are clear. There have been real, profound, often painful changes in the country over two decades: the slimming-down of uncompetitive manufacturers, the wave of investment in the South, the rebirth of Silicon Valley after the threat of eclipse by Japan. At an ordinary level, more Americans say they feel rich and happy.

Yet there is little impulse to use some of this wealth to help those who have not shared in the boom. Medical care for poor people continues to be patchy. For all the anecdotes of success in welfare reform, the states are having wildly different results in their experiments with taking away benefits to urge people to find work. The real test — economic slowdown — has still to be performed; the risk is that it will wipe people from their finger-tip-hold on jobs in fast-food

comes from overconfidence that the good times will continue. In welfare reform, it has reinforced the harshness which underlies Americans' friendliness, the feeling that each person should look after himself. Similarly, there also seems a new assumption that companies will survive, however hard you bash them, which has taken root easily in the traditional ambivalence towards big business.

In these days of non-politics, as people try to orientate themselves on the sprawling, muddy centre field, they even bring up asking whether someone is to the right or left of the Administration. Both, I tend to say, if asked what at the moment seems a dated question.

It is a farce to see America so unthinkingly caustic to the roots of its prosperity. And it is a disgrace that it is so casually harsh to its poorest citizens. Above all, it's a shame to see it make such poor use of the good times, while they're here.



"IT'S IDEAL FOR THE NHS... COST-EFFECTIVE & SAVES LIVES"

Follow the money

Is Prescott's congestion tax shelved? Bully for the lobbyists at Blair's court

Shut up all of you. The Government told us this week. Stop talking about cronyism and sleaze. You scored a few cheap points but that is over. The show goes on. Now write about how much of your money we are giving to hospitals, roads and schools.

And so we shall, in a manner of speaking. Next week John Prescott, in his role as Transport Secretary, publishes his long-delayed transport White Paper. Its most radical feature was expected to be new curbs on car use. Throwing money at public transport is no longer enough, Mr Prescott has argued. We must actively restrain some forms of mobility, notably private motoring. In last autumn's Green Paper, questions were put about using taxes or other restraints, so that cars "more accurately reflect their cost" in pollution and congestion. In this spring's White Paper on London the restraints were more specific. "Congestion charging and parking levies" were mooted, both as good in themselves and to help to finance London Transport. Britain was at last catching up with the Continent, where parking taxes and variable licensing are common.

Between then and now Mr Prescott has been writing his "integrated transport" White Paper. The draft suggested that local councils would be allowed to proceed with electronic metering, tolls, taxes on commercial parking and supplementary licences for local residents. Professor Stephen Glaister of the LSE even proposed a tax disc that doubled as a London Transport travel card, a cross-subsidy from private to public journeys.

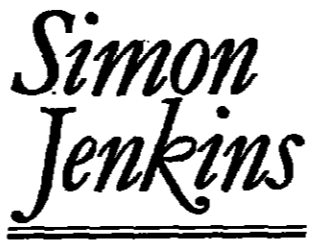
Such ideas were much admired by Mr Prescott and his department. By Herculean negotiation they even brought the Treasury on board. It was persuaded to let local councils raise new revenue and switch it to supporting buses and trams. The Treasury demanded only a cut of 17 per cent VAT. This "hypothecation" was a real triumph for Mr Prescott, a radical transport breakthrough at last. But that was months ago. What happened when the draft of the White Paper went to Downing Street? Until last week I believed the "official" unofficial reason for the delay. The spin was that U-turns are inevitable to a government new to power.

These people are still in their Enid Blyton phase. They are not even on to the second chapter of *Lord of the Flies*. Labour in opposition was against building in the green belt. Now some green-field estates are bound to be a good thing. In opposition widening the M25 was "madness". In power there are arguments for and against. In opposition Camelot was a monster profiteer. Now it is less so. As for Formula One tobacco advertising, it is a phenomenally complex issue hard to explain to those outside the inner circle.

Thus it was for Mr Prescott's White Paper. It was prepared in opposition and Whitehall was ready to draft it last year, in time for a spring launch. Hypothecation had been negotiated. Congestion charging offered an alternative to a politically explosive rise in petrol duty. The delay came, so we were told, when Mr Blair and his transport supremo, Geoff Norris, panicked: they feared for the votes of "Mondeo man".

There was even talk that the White Paper proposals had been put to British new Virtual Parliament, the focus groups. They had been summoned like feudal barons, had met in secret and had given thumbs down to Mr Prescott's ideas, even before the real Parliament had sight of them. This new surrogate Upper House had pre-empted the old Lower one. The White Paper was a dud. It had better dumb down, and fast. Forget congestion charging.

I could just by this explanation. Downing Street is entitled to its point of view on any matter of policy. The Prime Minister carries the electoral can. For Prime Minister we also read any member of the burgeoning apparatus that occupies Downing Street. As that new-found Hobbesian, Roger Liddle, is reported to have put it:



Simon Jenkins

"Just tell me who you want to meet, and Derek [Draper] and I will make the call for you." The days are long gone when someone who wanted to change the world became an MP, rose to be Deputy Prime Minister and pushed his ideas through the Whitehall system. Now you "work experience" at the BBC, paddle in a couple of think-tanks, bar-share with an apparition and cruise hypertext for a rebuttal unit. That's the CV to get you "on-message" in Cool Britain.

There is nothing new in this. To read the interlocking matrices of new Labour is like reading of the hereditary Cecil or Cavendish "connections". Such politics go back to Tudor times and before. There is no reason why it should be less effective government than Mr Prescott's meritocracy. The goal is supposedly the same, the achievement of the correct decision. The danger, as the Tudors found, lies in the secrecy of the individuals and processes, and its vulnerability to corruption.

Last week there was scandal in the air. The pointers were standing rigid on the moor, noses twitching. At such moments we disregard the gossip, the agents provocateurs, the boasts and the spin. We keep our heads and remember the maxim of the great and good Deep Throat. Follow the money. Always follow the money. At this point I started to feel for poor Mr Prescott and his White Paper.

I am amazed that Mr Blair could fail to see the danger of so many of his former aides tumbling into highly paid jobs for which they had only one obvious qualification: privileged access to him and his team. The Foreign Office has rules about this. The Civil Service has rules. Even private firms impose contractual restrictions on staff in future employment. Every Prime Minister should remember Prince Hal. "Presume not that I am

Alan Coren



The lady went to Paradise by way of Cricklewood Green

Were you to come out of my front gate, turn right, and walk 50 yards, you would find yourself at the A41. Were you then to turn left, and carry on walking, you would find yourself, after a bit, at the River Mersey. For the A41 is a serious road: it is a dual carriageway built to bear three broad lanes of carriages on either side, and it connects Cricklewood to Birkenhead.

You would not, of course, be walking along the carriageway, you would be walking along the pavement beside it, which is separated from the carriageway by a grass verge. You would thus be having a terrific time, but, suddenly, the terrific time would come to an end, because the grass verge does not go all the way to Birkenhead; it stops after a mile or so, in the middle of Hendon, which means that from Hendon to Birkenhead, the A41 ceases to be of any interest at all to the serious walker. There is nothing worth looking at any more. He might as well be driving.

But, for that all-too-brief mile or so, everything is worth looking at. The grass verge is a treasure trove. It has so much in it that you cannot see the grass. It is nothing more nor less than a continuous ribbon of contemporary social history. Hike slowly along it with your wis and your rubber gloves about you, and by the time you get to the middle of Hendon, you will have a comprehensive portrait of our times. Thanks to the benevolent jettison of a million carriages, to say nothing of the generous donations of not a few caring pedestrians, too, this narrow museum displays examples of everything we eat, everything we eat it out of, every bottle and can of everything we drink, every empty packet of everything we smoke, every newspaper or magazine we read, and everything for the weekend. There are gloves and batteries of every size and plastic forks and filler caps and shoes and string and spark-plugs, there are bits of toy and sunglasses and umbrella and syringe and tool. There is, in short, a mile or so of all we have and are.

More yet: I, who have lived here half my life, can remember seeing all we had and were. Occasionally, I, who have written to ask me how it is that I have so rich a memory of the names of vanished beers and antique confectionery and antique underwear and long-lost children's games and tobacco dead and gone, I could surely not have tried them all? And they are right, I have not, but I have seen them all, down the long arches of the years, in that second verge.

Except on the one day in all those 30 years when there was nothing there at all. Not only was there not one single piece of — oh, all right, rubbish — on the grass, the grass itself had been cropped and edged and rolled and weeded to a standard fit to allow bowls to be played from Cricklewood to Hendon. I cannot tell you how it was done, or who did it, but when I reveal that the day was September 7, 1997, you will at least know why. For that was of course the day when the hearse carrying Diana, Princess of Wales, on its journey from Westminster, turned from Finchley Road on to the A41, to go from Cricklewood to Hendon, and on to Althorp. I stood there as she passed, a billion transglobal viewers with me, and though none of them may have been staggered as I'm not to see it, none saw even a toffee-paper.

Why am I recalling this today? Because Gordon Brown needs my help. What he does not need is the maelstrom sucking at his boots, thanks to the row over the Diana Memorial Garden proposed for Kensington Palace, about which the local residents are going spare. Well, Chancellor, I think I speak for the local residents of Cricklewood when I say that the solution lies with something literally going spare, here on our doorstep: or, at least, 50 yards from it.

What I propose is the Diana Memorial Verge, a strip of England to be kept forever green and pleasant in her memory at a fraction of the cost of knocking Kensington about and thrombosing Central London's traffic, which would allow millions of pilgrims to share her final journey without even getting out of their cars and charabancs. All I ask in return is a big (but dignified) sign at the corner of Finchley Road and the A41, declaring that anyone throwing anything out of those cars and charabancs will be shot.

Peter's goal

PETER MANDELSON has signed a sweeper to shore up his fragile defence. After the shock red card administered to Derek Draper, his young prodigy, Peter has acquired a new crew to shore up his forthcoming Cabinet role. David Davies (left), the Football Association's director of public affairs, former BBC journalist and football fanatic, is Mandelson's surprise choice to improve his image with Labour's grass roots, who insist on supporting Barnsley rather than ballet. It might also suggest that Mandelson is confident of replacing the ineffective Chris Smith as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Although not one for manly pursuits such as football, Mandelson has followed Davies's career with admiration. Both men sprung from London political families, with Davies going on to work as a lobby correspondent at Westminster before leaving the BBC to "modernise" the fusty FA.

Davies, ghost-writing Glenn Hoddle's *World Cup Diary*, knows how to deal with embarrassing scandals. He has defended the good name of football from the match-fixing allegations against Bruce Grobelaar (right), Paul Mercer's self-confessed drug addict and the bracing behaviour of England supporters abroad. His ability to explain the mercurial moods of Hoddle to the world will stand him in good stead with the secretive Mandelson.

"David is very excited about working with Peter. He spoke of little else during the World Cup,"

says a senior source at the FA. The two would cut a swath through the Culture Department, although I fear aesthetes there might soon be scurrying for the dugout.

Now is the time for all good men to rescue the party. The influential residents of her Nocting Hill street have ignored the current unpleasantness over lobbyists and invited Lady Wrigglesworth, wife of Sir Ian, chairman of the beleaguered GPC, to host their annual street-party. Tricia is busy organising neighbourhoods with their Tupperware. Mandelson can be in charge



of inviting all the cronies round, while Philip Knightley, the spy writer who exposed Kim Philby, might be put in charge of security.

In a spin
SIR JOHN Birt is to gain a whopping 9 per cent pay rise — hooray. A secret BBC briefing paper has arrived at Diary Towers showing how spin-doctors are to defend their DG's monster pay rise.

The increase ignores Gordon Brown's call for public-sector pay rises to be consistent with his inflation target of 2.5 per cent. The briefing document on Executive Committee pay suggests that Michael Grade, the former chief executive of Channel 4, and Lord Hollick, the chief executive of United News and Media, are paid more than Birt. Such fat-cat decoy trickery smacks of dirty tricks. Moreover, it is hard to spin over the truth that Hollick and Grade are businessmen; Birt, is, in theory, a public servant.

Novel tale
DEREK DRAPER is irreplaceable. Far from attempting a long silence after his humiliating, Dolly is to transform his traumatic experience into a novelistic exposé of lobbying.



"We told them all they need to know last year"

Black pot
HOW deansing to see that *Tribune* takes a typically lofty view of lobbyists: headlines in the latest issue include "Sleazing and displeasing" and "Throw lobbyists to the wolves". Indeed, And Mark Seddon, Editor of the newspaper and self-styled "Voice of the Left", is certainly an authority. For Seddon, you see, was a loyal servant for two years of Westminster Strategy — a major lobbying company.

Flight fright
HE SHOULD have acquired a better class of friend when he left jail. President Mandela seems to be inviting an odd crew to his 80th birthday party. Michael Jackson (above), the children's friend, left passengers angry on his flight to South Africa. Jackson panted heads of young fans and signed autographs. Coming across 20 English schoolchildren, he said: "I like your country but I don't like your press. They are really stupid and they have caused me a lot of hurt."



The former friend of the Rolling Stones has abandoned attempts to get "Cool Britannia" types to perk up her career. Instead, she has accepted a song from Sir Elton John, that old piano-beater, to launch her latest comeback. One for the Saga Holiday summer disco?

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STON
After five thou

صكرا من الامم



HELLO, BIG SPENDER

Brave and radical. Brown's plans leave unanswered questions

"New Labour will be wise spenders, not big spenders." So Labour promised in its manifesto...

The Chancellor honoured his promise to increase resources for Labour's priority areas...

This is brave, shrewd and potentially foolhardy. It is brave to give the electorate targets by which to judge the Government...

mirable the new mechanisms for policing government departments, the Conservatives were right to ask the time-honoured question...

Social security is the greasy pig of government expenditure. After 18 years of wrestling with it, the Conservatives left office with social security benefits costing every working person £15 each working day.

Yesterday's statement is further proof — if proof were needed — that the Chancellor is intent on a radical overhaul of the way the economy is managed...

'Barbaric' laws on debt need reform

From the Reverend Paul Nicolson, Chairman of the Zachaeus 2000 Trust

Sir, The arrest and imprisonment of Betty Jack, a 71-year-old suffering from Parkinson's disease...

There is no legal aid at committal hearings for debt. Culpable negligence defies definition. A sad and expensive flood of applications for judicial review have enabled the High Court to declare hundreds of the magistrates' decisions unlawful.

It is only a matter of time before a father, hounded by the Child Support Agency for maintenance he cannot afford, is imprisoned by some magistrates somewhere...

Yours sincerely, PAUL NICOLSON, Chairman, Zachaeus 2000 Trust, The Vicarage, Turville, Henley-on-Thames RG9 6QU, July 11.

New code to end lobbying secrecy

From Mr Mike Lee

Sir, Recent reports on political lobbying (see also letters, July 8, 9 and 11) are a timely reminder of the need for a new regulatory framework for the industry.

The industry has made some efforts through its own voluntary code. However, it would appear that more is needed. To make progress and end the sense of secrecy and scandal...

Such a register should cover all those involved in lobbying, either as consultants or as representatives of companies and organisations.

This idea is not new but it is one whose time has come. To make it happen it needs the lobbying industry to grow up a little and Parliament to accept that public affairs is a legitimate business that can benefit the quality of decision making in Whitehall and Westminster if it is clear, transparent and properly regulated.

Yours sincerely, MIKE LEE (Deputy Managing Director), Westminster Strategy, 1 Dean's Yard, Westminster SW1P 3NR, July 12.

From Mr Martyn Bond

Sir, Michael Pinto-Duschinsky's article, "Lobbyists, loopholes and Europe" (July 8), rightly argues that "disclosure regulations must deal with abuses of the present and the future" as far as political donations are concerned.

However, Mr Pinto-Duschinsky is wrong to assert that the European Parliament offers grants to MEPs. All payments other than salary are related to expenses they are expected to incur in carrying out their parliamentary duties.

It is quite mistaken to lump these publicly voted allowances together with donations given to political parties for purposes of lobbying.

Yours sincerely, MARTYN BOND (Head), UK Office of the European Parliament, 2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9AA, July 10.

From Mr Freddy Salinger

Sir, Conservative Central Office was a client of the advertising agency, Colman Prentis and Varley (Anthony Howard's article, July 14) as early as 1949, when I worked for them — and it was no secret.

Yours faithfully, FREDDY SALINGER, Greenacres, Southlands Lane, West Chilmington, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2JU, July 14.

Shall we compare the summer days?

From Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM

Sir, As the dismal summer grinds on some weather commentators seem determined to assure us (which is not much consolation) that there is little of the ordinary about it. I even read an argument that June was quite a good month for warmth because the temperature fell so little at night — an obvious accompaniment to low pressure and bad weather.

I suggest that the best measurement of the quality of a summer is the number of days with (i) a maximum temperature of at least 70F, (ii) nil rainfall, (iii) at least six hours of sunshine and (iv) no more than a light breeze (a little more difficult to measure perhaps, but important for there is no pleasure, for example, in having an al fresco meal in a gale).

The days can be counted on either a monthly or a summer-long (May 1 to August 31) basis, and the information is almost all contained within the daily weather reports in The Times. Other preoccupations prevent my engaging in the gentle pursuit, over say the past 20 years, of this comparative knowledge. But I am sure that such a compilation would provide a much more realistic and interesting view of the quality of a summer than do crude rainfall, sunshine and average temperature statistics.

Yours faithfully, ROY JENKINS, House of Lords, July 13.

Arts funding

From Mr Michael Berkeley

Sir, Why are we talking about funding for education and culture as though they are separate entities when in fact they are inextricably linked, if not one and the same thing?

Over the last few days I have watched young students and school children meet Alfred Brendel and listen to him playing all the Beethoven piano concertos. That exhilarating experience, or indeed seeing Shakespeare at Stratford or the Turners at the Tate, is to share in the creative spirit at its most inspired and inspiring. It is to understand what all that hard work can achieve.

When I look over this festival in 1995, I was told by the Arts Council that excellence, innovation and educational outreach would be rewarded. Despite acknowledged success in all three our subsidy has gone down in real terms almost every year, while artists' fees rise inexorably. Sooner or later the tightrope on which we and other arts organisations walk will snap, despite, in our case, full houses and generous supporters.

I cannot believe that this Prime Minister wishes to betray future generations by destroying the infrastructure of the arts in this country, thereby at the same time emasculating education. Believe me, we are coming perilously close to that point.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL BERKELEY (Artistic Director), Cheltenham International Festival of Music, Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham GL50 1QA, July 10.

Enduring Times

From Mr George Chowdhary-Best

Sir, Mr Patrick Booth (letter, July 13) should understand that there is nothing "ephemeral" about The Times. Indeed it is the one daily newspaper that can reliably be found in major libraries and other archives throughout this country and abroad, whether in its original form or on microfilm. It also has a very full, if in earlier years a somewhat eccentric, index.

Yours faithfully, G. CHOWDHARY-BEST, 27 Walpole Street, SW3 4QS, July 13.

No resting place?

From Mrs P. M. Crawford

Sir, Mr Bruce Leeming's letter yesterday remarked on the obituaries in an American newspaper appearing in the "Lifestyles" section. Here in the kingdom of File our churchyards come under the heading of "Department of Recreation".

Yours faithfully, PHILIPPA CRAWFORD, Netherkirkton Farmhouse, Balmerino, Newport-on-Tay, Fife DD6 8SA. jamescrawford@compuserve.com July 10.

What a faux pax

From Mr Stephen Willink

Sir, I have long been aware that good Latinity cannot nowadays be relied upon in your columns (in particular, the belief that a single person can be described as a "cohort" [300-600 soldiers] appears to be rooted more firmly than ground elder in a neglected garden).

But no excuses can be made for silly mistakes in French. Bleus, not Bleux (leading article, July 13), please, for the victorious French football team. Yours etc, STEPHEN WILLINK, 20 Notre Dame House, Plymouth PL1 5EU, July 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr Mike Lee

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Preserving hedgerows

From Mr R. P. Voelcker

Sir, I hope Mr Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister (report, July 3), has not failed fully to scrutinise the statistics on hedgerows before planning to simplify the criteria for preserving them.

The 1993 hedgerow survey by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions showed that between 1990 and 1993 an average annual 3,600 kilometres was removed, as your report says; but 5,700km was restored, 4,400km replanted, and 22,500km "lost" by neglect or mismanagement.

It appears that lost meant the abandonment of maintenance when the hedge began to assume the natural shape of its component species. It involved reclassification, not removal, and was therefore not a true loss.

For many years the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, composed of farmers and landowners, has been advocating less trimming of hedges, allowing them to achieve the shape of their components. Many farmers like myself have done so and their record of plant and wildlife conservation is superb.

I believe that far from there having been a devastating annual loss of hedgerows, the steady improvement of care for many of them has actually added to the total length.

Before introducing new regulations the minister promises research to provide reliable estimates of the proportion of hedgerows that might be protected. Such research needs to include a recognition of what many farmers are doing to renew or preserve long-standing hedgerows as an example for others to follow.

Yours faithfully, R. P. VOELCKER, Avils Farm, Lower Stanton St Quintin, Nr Chippingham SN14 6DA, July 9.

Young homeless

From the Chief Executive of NCH Action for Children

Sir, You are right to say (leading article, July 9) that if the Government is to meet its target of reducing rough sleeping by two thirds by 2002 some tough issues need addressing.

We believe one is to cut the scandalous link between the care system and youth homelessness, a link we see time and time again through our projects working with young people leaving care. The measures set out in the Social Exclusion Unit's report are an important first step, and we hope the Government's forthcoming response to the Utting report will carry the process still further.

Nigerian lesson

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, During the negotiations for the independence of Nigeria the view of the Secretary of State at that time, with which I agreed, was that in Nigeria we should attempt to put together a large and powerful state with ample material resources, which would play a leading part in the affairs of the continent and of the world. This was attractive but it involved forcing several different ethnic and cultural groups into a single political structure.

The negotiations were complex and very difficult, the chief problem as I remember relating, significantly, to the control of the police and the military.

In the retrospect of 40 years it is clear that this was a grave mistake which has cost many lives and will probably continue to do so. It would have been better to establish several

smaller states in a free-trade area. In excupation it must be said that we did not then have the examples of the collapse of Yugoslavia and of the Soviet Union before our eyes. It should now be clear for all but the wilfully blind to see that it is extremely dangerous to force diverse racial and social entities into a single rigid political structure such as that which is being built upon the foundation of the Maastricht treaty. Recent history suggests that it would be best to complete the development of the Common Market and to call a halt to political integration in Europe.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant. PETER SMITHERS (Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of State and the Secretary of State in the Colonial Office, 1952-59), In Di Pradon 19, 6921-Vico Morote, Switzerland, July 10.

Third World payments

From the General Director of the Evangelical Alliance UK

Sir, Senior church leaders from across the world will be gathering this weekend in Canterbury for the 1998 Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion. We would like to welcome those bishops who are visitors to the UK and assure all those present of our thoughts, prayers and sincere best wishes.

A look at the agenda of the conference shows the many and varied important global issues to be discussed, ranging from euthanasia to human rights. From our point of view the issue of international debt is paramount. A strong clear message from the bishops at Lambeth would strengthen the already loud call for a cancellation of Third World debt by the year 2000 and put enormous pressure on the banks and financial institutions that reclaim more in interest payments on debt than the Western world sends in grant aid.

There will undoubtedly be a small minority who will try to hijack the conference for their own ends. Our prayer is that the majority of bishops will keep their eye on the ball and that Lambeth is used to the glory of God as we approach the new millennium.

Yours sincerely, JOEL EDWARDS, General Director, Evangelical Alliance UK, Whitefield House, 186 Kennington Park Road, SE11 4BT, July 13.

Medical records

From the Head of UK Medical Services at the Medical Protection Society

Sir, The report by the Association of Community Health Councils appears to have reached a surprising conclusion ("GPs accused of blocking access to patient records", July 13). GPs are aware of their patients' rights of access to medical records and, in our experience, express reservation only in cases of genuine difficulty (usually where a parent requests access to a child's notes in contested custody proceedings or where relatives seek disclosure of a dead patient's records). In these instances our GP members, comprising just under half of the UK's GPs, discuss the matter with our advisers. Obstruction in an attempt to conceal, or simply for the sake of it, is not an option.

Medical records do contain abbreviations and technical terms requiring explanation. Consequently, we encourage GPs, when possible, to sit down with patients who ask to see their records to explain their content. This is an invitation the majority of GPs are pleased to issue even though the cost of this exercise is greatly in excess of the £10 access fee.

Yours faithfully, GERALD PANTING, Head of UK Medical Services, Medical Protection Society, 33 Cavendish Square, W1M 0PS, July 13.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: fetters@the-times.co.uk

STONE AGE SUSPECT

After five thousand years, this case is still open

Police Constable David Thurley yesterday approached the scene of the crime according to the book. He was the first to enter an underground tomb on Orkney since it was sealed by Stone Age man. The incident has eventually been reported, regrettably late as usual, by a farmer at Kirkwall. While he was ploughing for spring barley, a hole opened up in his field. In the hole there was suspicious evidence of human remains.

So instead of sending for the usual amateurs, the archaeologists from Glasgow University have called in the professionals. And PC Thurley is methodically applying the lessons he has been taught by the Strathclyde police college for investigating suspicious deaths. He has created a sterile environment. He is recording all evidence meticulously as found. He is using the technology of his crime kit for investigating Paisy gang killings on a Saturday night. These include adhesive and electrostatic tapes to take fingerprints and fibres, as well as swabs, scalpels and tweezers.

So PC Thurley has the rare privilege of being summoned to perform in life and on the news of the fantasies of fictional detectives. In fiction Brother Cadfael investigates imaginary crime in the Middle Ages. Falco,

the louché informer, investigates and usually solves ghastly crimes in Vespaian's Rome. Umberto Eco turned antiquarian detection into a literary exercise. But real PC Thurley has a real corpse. And for once this is a case for the professionals.

Amateurs are usually given the best lines in romance. Inspector Japp has to put up with Hercule Poirot tapping his forehead and patronising him by saying: "These little grey cells. It is 'up to them' — as you say over here." Inspectors Lestrade and Gregson of Scotland Yard are put in their place by Holmes as "the pick of a bad lot, but conventional — shockingly so." Lord Peter Wimsey outwits Chief Inspector Parker.

Not before time the professionals are now getting their share of the action. The motive for the mysterious affair in Orkney might be rivalry between fishermen and farmers. But we should never rule out nastier domestic explanations. The usual suspects from the past await the criminal investigators, from glaciers in the Alps to Siberian ice princesses and Hollywood mummies groaning down the passage of their cardboard pyramid. For archaeologists and policemen really are in the same line of business: finding out what happened on evidence that is often flimsy.

Alan Coren... The lady went to... Parative by way of... Professional Green... LIVES!

OBITUARIES

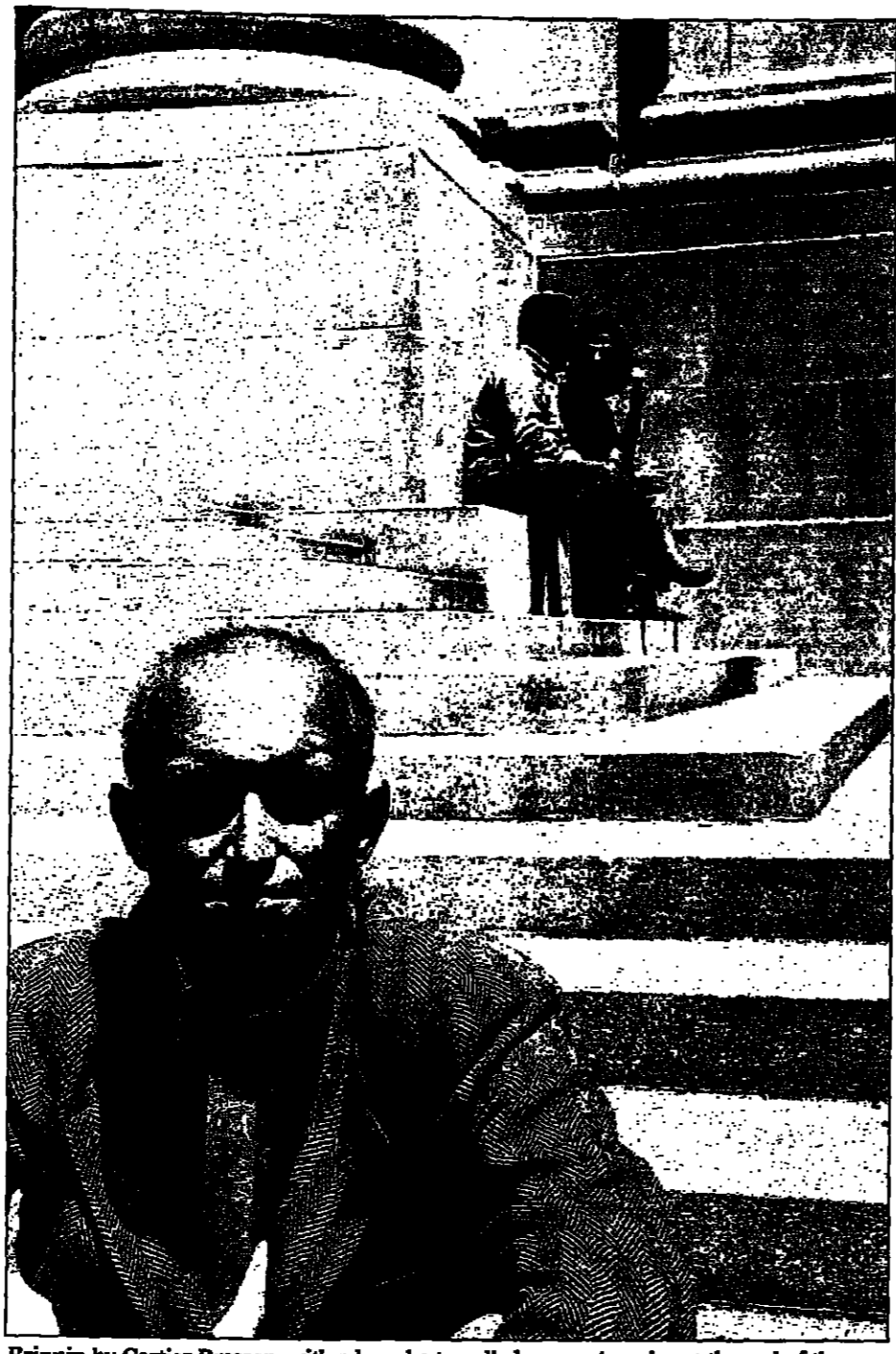
JOHN MALCOLM BRINNIN

John Malcolm Brinnin, American writer and critic, died on June 26 aged 81. He was born on September 13, 1916.

When John Malcolm Brinnin published Dylan Thomas in America, many readers, including the poet's widow, were affronted by his frank account of Thomas's humiliating dissolution, and the quoting of even his final words: "I've had 18 straight whiskies. I think that's a record."

Brinnin, who had organised reading tours of American universities for Thomas and had travelled with him, was accused of a posthumous betrayal. His account of Thomas's death after four days in an alcoholic coma might be moving — the writing strove earnestly for a Jamesian fineness — but it was thought outrageous to describe the sottishness, the swearing, brawling and irresponsibility, and Brinnin was vilified for his pains.

In the event, though, Dylan Thomas in America established not only Brinnin's reputation and the popular image of Thomas, but a pattern for writing openly about the lives of self-destructive writers. It probably encouraged the kind of laudering confessions found in the work of such poets as Brinnin's friend Robert Lowell, and in the Dream Songs of John Berryman (who found Thomas dead when Brinnin momentarily left the bedside). It may even have affected the careers of the generation which included the suicides Jarrell, Berryman, Plath and Sexton.



Brinnin by Cartier-Bresson, with whom he travelled across America at the end of the war

Brinnin went on to produce five further elegantly insubstantial poetry collections, and in 1955 the Poetry Society of America awarded him its gold medal for distinguished service to poetry. Some of this service was in the form of his work as director of the Young Men's Hebrew Association Poetry Center in New York, from 1949 to 1956.

It was under this aegis that he invited Dylan Thomas to America, where the pressures of performing the part of the great poet proved overwhelming. Embroiled, as a result, in

four years of turmoil, Brinnin remained a devoted guardian, amanuensis and nurse. As well as organising 150 readings in America — only one of which Thomas missed, despite his temulentous state — Brinnin accompanied him back to London, and to bar after pub after club. In Thomas's lifetime, Norman Cameron had written well about his exasperating behaviour: Who invited him in? What was he doing here. That insolent little ruffian, that crapulous lout?

memoir and another by Caitlin Thomas were made into a successful Broadway play, Dylan, by Sidney Michaels, and Brinnin also narrated a film entitled The Days of Dylan Thomas, though he claimed to tire of rehashing the story.

Once well described as a "pearly" contributor to The New Yorker, Brinnin taught at Vassar, Boston University and the University of Connecticut. His long book about Gertrude Stein, The Third Rose (1960) was, typically, more memoir than literary criticism, but it contained memorable vignettes of the epistolical charlatan who tried to free words from their meanings.

Brinnin was a listener to set beside Joy Adamson, and through his work as an impresario and compiler of anthologies, he corresponded with poets from T. S. Eliot and Allen Tate to John Ashbery and Denise Levertov. He also edited the literary journal Signatures. In 1982 he published Sextet, a series of portraits of Truman Capote, a friend for 40 years, and of some slighter acquaintances. The Times reviewer praised his social acuity, but added that the writing seemed to "flutter somewhere between biography, libel, and insinuation". But if Brinnin could be revealing about others, he did not spare himself. His memoirs include several embarrassing episodes about his encounters with writers.

In 1987 his 40-year friendship with Capote — his "Dear Heart, Old Buddy" — was given book-length treatment, and again it was a woe-filled tale of alcohol, drugs and self-pity, tied up with censorious remarks addressed to the recently deceased Capote. "As far as I can see," he wrote, "you've achieved a reputation at the cost of a career." A committed sycophant, smartly dressed and with a porter wheeling his Louis Vuitton bags, Brinnin loved to cross the Atlantic on the great ocean liners. He made more than 60 crossings, and in 1971 he produced a gossipy 600-page history, The Sway of the Grand Saloon. James (now Jan) Morris praised its display of "amused and fastidious taste in kitsch, brag and Victorianism". Undaunted by the reviewers' term "exhaustive", Brinnin produced a second volume on the subject a decade later.

PHILIP READING

Philip Reading, ear, nose and throat surgeon, died on July 7 aged 92. He was born on January 16, 1906.



Reading: modernised the ENT department at Guy's

WELL before Philip Reading retired in 1969 from his post as senior surgeon in the ear, nose and throat department of Guy's Hospital, he had become one of the foremost specialists in this branch of surgery. But it was not widely realised that his first ambition had been to become a general surgeon, and that he had progressed some distance in this direction.

Philip Vernon Reading entered the medical school at Guy's from St Dunstan's College, Cardiff, in 1924. Soon after qualifying in 1930, he was awarded the university gold medal in the London MB, with distinction in surgery and midwifery. He quickly became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and within two years he had become a Master of Surgery. Not surprisingly, he was appointed to the most coveted junior surgical posts at Guy's and, no doubt, pinned his hopes on promotion to the senior staff in due course. Unfortunately, there was no such vacancy in prospect, and in 1935 he accepted a junior surgical appointment at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham.

There he was entrusted with more and more surgery and greatly impressed his seniors. One of these described him as "an exceptionally fine operator, whose technical ability is fully matched by sound clinical judgment and outstanding personal qualities". Eventually a vacancy on the senior staff at Selly Oak came up, but it was for an ear, nose and throat surgeon. Philip Reading was urged to apply. It reveals something about the attitude of 60 years ago towards what was then regarded as a peripheral activity that a young general surgeon should have been expected to pick up all that was necessary during in-service experience.

Reading was in due course appointed, but he was not content to proceed in such a haphazard manner. He sat at the feet of colleagues in the speciality, devoured the specialist literature and, in less time than most could have managed, equipped himself for his future work.

How well he succeeded was borne out in 1945 when on the retirement of T. B. Layton, the famous Guy's throat and ear specialist, Reading was chosen to succeed him from a field which included favourites trained in the speciality from the start. He had hardly set foot again in Guy's before he was called in for two years' National Service and posted to a British military hospital in Egypt. There, for the first time since qualifying, he found himself with time on his hands. He started to write a book, his manual for students entitled Common Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat, which was published in 1950 and is soon to reach its fourth edition. In 1948, when Reading returned to Guy's, the ear, nose and throat department — though highly regarded — was set in its ways. Reading was not content with this. By the end of the 1940s, practices were changing. Major surgery of the head and neck was moving out of the hands of general surgeons into those of ENT specialists. And the newly designed operating microscope was making possible great advances in the management of deafness. Reading saw to it that these advances were introduced at Guy's and taught to junior staff. Teaching, particularly of the undergraduate students, was one of his principal concerns, and here again he introduced

new ideas, such as visual teaching aids, which he designed with the help of the illustration and photographic department. In 1958 he was appointed director of the department, a post he occupied with distinction for 12 years.

The list of the offices he held includes six years on the court of examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons and, just before his retirement, the president of the otology section of the Royal Society of Medicine. He also acted as medical adviser to the Commonweath Society for the Deaf. Had he not been so unusually modest and self-effacing, the list would have been longer and his distinction would have been more widely appreciated. Philip Reading set about his retirement with the thoroughness and attention to detail that had characterised his whole career. He planned in advance the removal of himself and his family to the delightful village of Alfriston in East Sussex, where he devoted himself to books, music, wood carving and, particularly, the care of his beautiful garden. In 1935 he married Kathleen Seery, a Guy's nurse, who died in 1994. He leaves a daughter.

FRANK ROWLETT

Frank Rowlett, cryptanalyst, died on June 29 aged 90. He was born on May 2, 1908.

FRANK ROWLETT has been credited with altering the course of the Allied invasion of

Europe in the Second World War through his groundbreaking work in encryption — thus saving thousands of lives. His greatest achievement was probably the Sigaba encrypting machine, the most

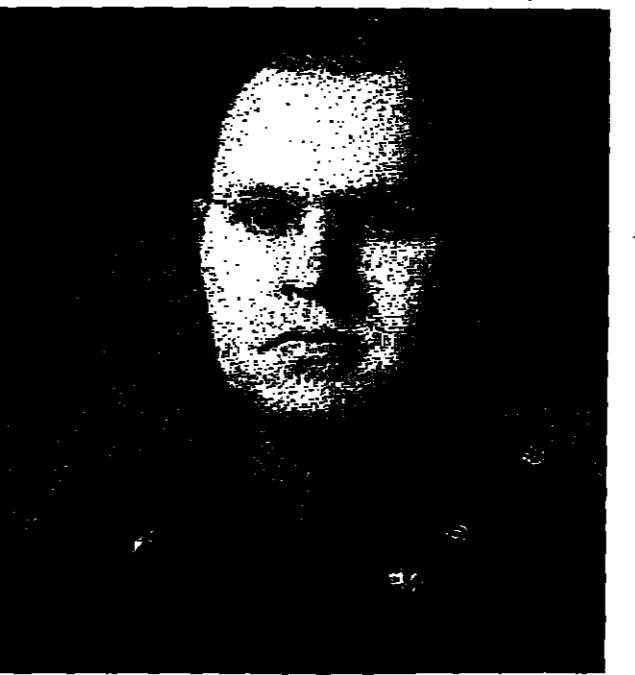
secure American device during the war, but he also led the team of cryptanalysts who broke "Purple", the Japanese encrypting machine relating messages to Tokyo from the Japanese Embassy in Berlin.

Frank Rowlett was born in Rose Hill, Virginia, and studied mathematics at Emory and Henry College, graduating in 1929. The following year he was recruited by William Friedman, who is considered

the father of American cryptology, as one of three trainees in the new field; he became the first man to be employed by the American Administration with the title of cryptanalyst.

Initially the team studied and worked through problems devised by Friedman, while their newly formed division of the Signal Intelligence Service functioned on a shoestring. Budgets were so tight that their own pencils to work, and wrote on the back of old weather reports to save paper. In 1935 the team was ordered by the US Army to break the Japanese electro-mechanical cipher machine, "Red", which they did successfully in 1936. Then, when the Japanese replaced "Red" with the more advanced "Purple" in 1939, Rowlett was enlisted to lead the team and break the code.

Under his direction the group spent 18 months discovering the method by which the original machine converted plain text to cipher. Then out of \$684.65 worth of parts, they reconstructed their own "Purple" machine. This feat is often cited as one of the greatest in cryptanalysis, because Rowlett's team relied solely on intercepted messages for their work. In due course the Amer-



Rowlett: the US Government's first official cryptanalyst

Although the communiqués did not reveal the Japanese intention to bomb Pearl Harbor, Rowlett said he believed that the information deciphered from the Berlin-Tokyo circuit saved thousands of lives. Some historians contend that the Allies' ability to break Japan's diplomatic codes shortened the war by two years. But Rowlett's team was creating codes as well as cracking them. The Sigaba machine that he and his colleagues developed was to remain secure throughout the war.

Rowlett rose to the rank of colonel in the US Army, and at the end of the war he became chief of the intelligence division of the Army Security Agency, the successor to the SIS. Later he joined the CIA and National Security Agency, rising to the position of special assistant to the director in 1958.

On his retirement in 1965 he was commandant of the National Cryptologic School. He was awarded the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, the National Security Medal, the Legion of Merit, and appointed an honorary OBE by the British Government.

His first wife died in 1980 and his second wife died last year. He is survived by a son, who met his lady love down at the Welsh Harp, "which is Hendon way," on Easter Monday, and married her at Shoreditch on Whit Monday, because on that day the marriage fees were dispensed with. The audience sees them at various times during the 40 years of their married life, with a son and heir, who wears the most wonderful "pearly" suit imaginable, goes away to become a gentleman, is robbed of his money, and eventually finds a fortune in Klondike. But it is the struggles of his father and mother against the slings and arrows of fortune in which the audience are interested, and so long as Mr. Chevalier and Miss Alice Bowes are on the stage all is well.

The music-hall's gain was certainly the legitimate theatre's loss when Mr. Chevalier forsook the latter, but it is good to see him back to his old love, for he is above all else a delightful actor, who can summon tears quite as easily as he can create laughter. He had to do both last night, and the audience accorded him one of those welcomes which do the heart of the actor good.

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'MY OLD DUTCH'
For many years, more in fact than we care to remember, Mr. Albert Chevalier has been singing to us of his "Old Dutch" and promising to "tell us all about her."

ON THIS DAY
July 15, 1920
"MY Old Dutch" (We've Been Together Now for 40 years, and it don't seem a Day too Much) was the best loved of Chevalier's sentimental cockney songs.

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NEWS

Brown releases spending brake

Gordon Brown released the brake on spending by announcing an extra £40 billion for health and education over the next three years, the biggest single investment for the two services in their history.

The Chancellor delighted Labour MPs when he said that total government spending would increase by £57 billion to £390 billion by the next election. The Tories accused him of losing control of public expenditure.

Pages 1, 2, 6-9, 29

Bishop's anger at 'saddest of funerals'

The presiding Bishop called it the "saddest of sad funerals" and even by Northern Ireland's grim standards that was true. The white coffins of the three Quinn brothers burned alive in the sectarian arson attack on their Ballymoney home were buried in the Province.

Robinson in clear

Geoffrey Robinson, the Treasury minister, will today be cleared by a Commons investigation of failing to register a £200,000 payment from the late Robert Maxwell.

Lost statues returned

Seven 2nd-century marble sculptures, found by divers on a wreck off the coast of Kent, will today be handed back to Turkey after being lost at sea for almost 100 years.

Rural life too muddy

A millionaire and his wife who found rural Leicestershire too muddy and full of sheep failed in an attempt to preserve their own idyllic vision by taking a local farmer to court.

Kosovo insurgents

Anthony Loyd finds himself among an insurgent army in Kosovo: "The shooting was long overdue and almost a relief after the nerve-grinding drive through no man's land."

Tuition fees solution

The confrontation between the House of Lords and the Government over student tuition fees ended amid dramatic scenes when a last-minute compromise was agreed.

Wall of silence claim

A coroner accused French investigators of erecting a wall of silence over a British tourist who was kicked to death by a rollerskating gang while on a birthday trip to Paris.

Fashion week opens

The first London Men's Fashion Week opened at the Cafe Royal, with younger designers leading the way. It was wild by the standards of men's shows.

Netanyahu scandal

Binyamin Netanyahu faces allegations that he tried to influence the trial of an Israeli convicted of selling poison gas material to Iran.

Earth science

A medicine discovered in the soil of Easter Island could revolutionise transplant surgery and reduce the risk of rejection among kidney patients by 60 per cent.

French football party

Guests at President Chirac's Bastille Day garden party chanted "Zidane! Zidane!" as the player who scored twice in the World Cup final appeared.

Girl, 2, dies in chase

Police are investigating the death of a two-year-old girl who was killed in a car crash in County Durham during a police pursuit.

Gucci wife testifies

The former wife of Maurizio Gucci, Patrizia Reggiani, denied that she had been behind his murder as she gave evidence for the first time.

Wind of change is not to be sniffed at

A cushion coated with charcoal and worn inside the underpants can eliminate most of the malodorous consequences of eating beans, researchers have discovered. The research also discovered that women are the worst offenders in terms of odour, although men made up for this in sheer volume.



A distraught Brazilian football fan greets the defeated national World Cup team at a welcoming ceremony in the capital, Brasilia

BUSINESS

Car parks: Cendant, the acquisitive US company that has taken over Birmingham Symphonia Orchestra, Sir Simon Rattle is moving on, but he is not cutting all ties with the city whose cultural life he has transformed.

SPORT

Golf: Lee Westwood and Tiger Woods, two of the favourites for the Open Championship, offered an intriguing insight into the contrasting methods each uses to cope with the pressure of stardom.

ARTS

Bidding farewell: After 18 years as music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sir Simon Rattle is moving on, but he is not cutting all ties with the city whose cultural life he has transformed.

FEATURES

Wild weekend: The outdoor "development" course in a cold and wet Lake District was meant to foster teamwork and came with the highest recommendation of the managers. Do such courses really help people to work better?

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BUSINESS

Bad crop: Albert Fisher, the food company, blamed a poor performance on the bad weather, low sales of chilled salads and a poor pea crop.

SPORT

Cricket: The leading umpires united in condemning many modern Test Match players as cheats who pose the most insidious threat to the conduct and image of the game.

ARTS

Festival premiere: George Benjamin conducts the London Sinfonietta in two of his works at the Cheltenham Festival.

FEATURES

Aries and graces: Keith Cooper, the telephone-flinging managing director of Covent Garden who was sacked not long after the documentary The House was shown on television, is about to make a comeback in the sequel.

BUSINESS

Economy: A fall in British inflation, a rally in the Far East and some benign American statistics helped to push the London stock market to a record close.

SPORT

Football: Brazil returned home to a muted welcome after their defeat in the World Cup Final. Ronaldo is no underdog medical tests.

ARTS

Still singing the blues: The old order of the blues may be dying, but a new generation of younger American performers is helping to keep the 12-bar alive.

FEATURES

Home help: As home schooling in America grows in popularity, teachers and psychologists are becoming increasingly worried, particularly in states where parents do not need to tell schools they are withdrawing their children or give them standardised tests.

BUSINESS

Markets: Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 105.5 to 104.9 after a fall from \$1.6421 to \$1.6373.

SPORT

Cycling: Bo Hamburger, of Denmark, took the yellow jersey in the Tour de France after Jens Heppner, of Germany, sprinted to victory in the third stage.

ARTS

Dramatic Darwin: Timberlake Wertenbaker combines science and art in her fine new play about the origin of species.

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RADIO AND TV

Preview: Tony Doyle plays a repressive father in a 1950s Irish drama. Amongst Women (BBC2, 9.30pm). Review: Peter Barnard on history according to Michael Wood.

OPINION

Hello, big spender

Will the Government be able to deliver the targets it has set? Is it right to be so optimistic in its forecasts for the economy? And can it fund its plans by cutting the cost of social security and social failure? The jury is still out.

Three-way bargain

The world has stabilised the rubble; it now hopes against hope that the Duma will not, with pigheaded folly, commit the historic error of sabotaging this great effort to come to Russia's rescue.

Stone Age suspect

Archaeologists and policemen really are in the same line of business: finding the truth on evidence that is often flimsy.

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

Gordon Brown thinks New Labour but talks Old Labour. He was cheered for sounding Old Labour in his apparent generosity on public spending. The longer-term test will be how far it is New Labour in implementation.

SIMON JENKINS

I am amazed that Mr Blair could fail to see the danger of so many of his former aides tumbling into highly paid jobs for which they had only one obvious qualification: privileged access to him and his team.

BRONWEN MADDOX

The prosperity of the past few years has temporarily suspended American politics.

ALAN COREN

What I propose is the Diana Memorial Verge, a strip of England to be kept forever green.

OBITUARIES

John Malcolm Brianna, writer and critic; Philip Reading, surgeon; Frank Rowlett, cryptanalyst.

LETTERS

"Barbaric" debt laws; code for lobbying; rotten summer; Third World payments.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,844

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS: 1. Gossip with female key-holder (10); 7. Cut jade (4); 9. Hard labour as a result of forging activity? (8); 10. Soften wax (6); 11. A source of cloth, animal originally found on high mountain (6); 12. Firing initiated by key operator in revolutionary movement (8); 13. Girl finding accommodation in Benidorm (4); 15. I get dinner prepared for a constituent (10); 18. Leading ladies in the cinema (10); 20. Leave university without party dress (4); 21. French criminal's torch (8); 24. Drink that packs a punch (6); 26. Couple's case ending prematurely (6).

Word search puzzle titled 'GAMBLE SCORCHED' with a grid of letters and words hidden within.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have sunny spells and a few showers. South Wales and the West Country will be wet by the end of the day. Scotland will have another cool day with sunny intervals and showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover for various locations.

ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations, including London, Paris, Rome, and Tokyo.

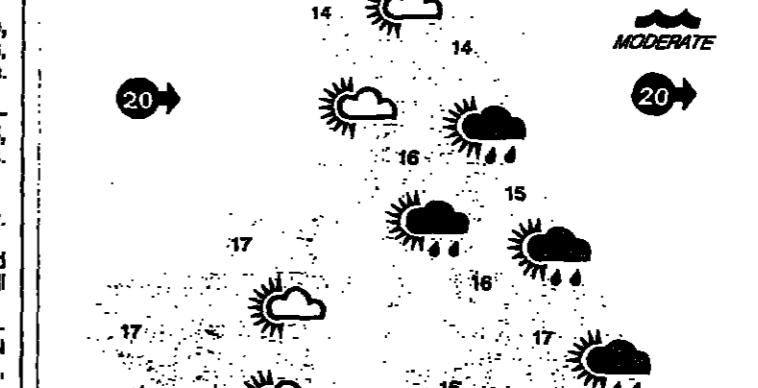
ABROAD

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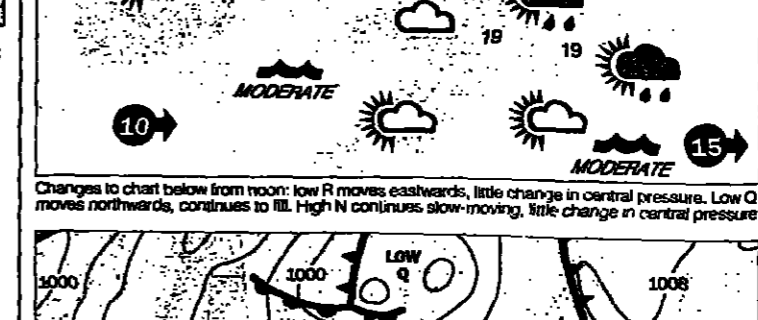
ABROAD

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NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



ABROAD

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THE TIMES



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TODAY



ECONOMICS

Janet Bush says finances can bear extra spending
PAGE 29



ARTS

Sir Simon Rattle bids au revoir to Birmingham
PAGES 35-38



SPORT

Searching for the strongest suit in the water
PAGES 40-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JULY 15 1998

City optimism on rate stability grows

Shares soar to near record as inflation dips

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LONDON shares surged back towards record levels yesterday after a sharp fall in the UK rate of inflation, a rally in Asian markets and some benign US economic data helped restore confidence to global equity markets.

The FTSE 100 enjoyed its biggest one day climb this year to close up 142.0 at 6,100.2 — just shy of its all time record close of 6,105.8.

European markets also surged with shares in Germany and The Netherlands reaching record highs. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones had risen nearly 100 points by the close in London following weaker than expected consumer price inflation figures.

Fresh speculation that Japan is on the verge of agreeing a series of tax cuts and news that Eisuke Sakakibara, the Japanese vice-minister for finance who has been dubbed "Mr Yen" by the markets, would be meeting with Lawrence Summers, US deputy treasury secretary, had earlier pushed Asian markets higher. In Tokyo, the Nikkei index climbed 128.5 to close at 16,488.91 while the yen climbed above the critical 140 to the dollar level.

A continuing positive reaction to the IMF bailout package for Russia also aided sentiment with the Russian stock market forced to close early following an unprecedented 17 per cent rise.

In London, even the Government's long awaited spending review, which announced substantial spending increases for target departments

such as health and education, failed to dampen the market's enthusiasm. Economists have expressed concern that the package, which will result in total spending rising by around 2.75 per cent per year, could prove inflationary.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "It is not clear that the Bank of England [Monetary Policy Committee] took the spending figures into account in its July meeting and could take a more hawkish tone in its next meeting as a result."

Paul Johnson, of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, also gave warning that the Chancellor was heavily reliant on a

Spending review... 6-9
Stock market... 28

reduction in the debt burden, cutting Government interest payments, to meet his spending commitments. "If the economy goes into recession these figures will be blown out of the water," Mr Johnson said.

However, Kevin Dartington, UK economist at ABN-AMRO, insisted that a large increase in the Government's reserve and a rise in money attributed to "accounting and other adjustments" had ensured there is some "padding" in the Chancellor's figures.

Banking stocks led the London market higher as the City interpreted the UK inflation data as evidence that the interest rate cycle may now have peaked. The Bank of

England's target measure of inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, fell from an annual rate of 3.2 per cent in May to 2.8 per cent last month.

Headline inflation also fell sharply from 4.2 per cent to 3.7 per cent. This is also likely to please the Bank of England which has been concerned about the impact of rising inflation on average earnings.

The data, however, took a toll on the pound which fell around one and half pennings to DM2.9453, its lowest level for a month. Traders predicted that the fall in the pound could accelerate through the rest of the summer as the risks of a slowdown in the economy outweigh sterling's high yield.

Economists cautioned that some of the fall in inflation was due to an erratic decline in seasonal food prices, which shaved 0.1 percentage points off the index. The measure of service sector inflation also remains stubbornly above target at 3.2 per cent.

However, the cost of non-seasonal food, clothing, household goods and motoring also fell. Inflation is expected to fall towards the target level next month as last year's July Budget fuel price rise drops out of the figures and heavy discounting by retailers enters the equation.

Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC, said: "These numbers provide a more favourable starting point for the August Inflation Report than we had expected. They are helpful to the view that interest rates have peaked."



London's central shopping landmarks may change 'out of all recognition' in the next decade

Regent Street faces Crown revamp

By CARL MORTISHED

ONE of Britain's most famous and wealthiest shopping streets is to face a fundamental shake-up as the Crown Estate takes possession of what could be a potential goldmine.

Long leases granted by the Crown Estate over landmark buildings in Regent Street will begin to expire at the turn of the century. The Government body is already drawing up plans for the redevelopment of sites occupied by top retailers, such as Burberry, Aquascutum and Mappin & Webb.

Most of the leases sold in the 1920s had no provision for rent reviews and the current lease owners, mainly insurance companies, are paying trifling rents to the Crown Estate. However, they in turn are collecting rents at market rates from their office and retail tenants.

Over the period from 2003-2013, leases on 34 buildings will expire, representing some three million square feet of Regent Street property. As the middlemen fall out of the picture, the Crown Estate will reap a windfall: the 34 properties account for more than a quarter of the space but it receives less than £500,000 from the leases.

However, the Crown Estate, which also owns Windsor Great Park, 84,000 hectares of land and forest and most of the nation's foreshore, has no intention of retaining a passive rent collector.

Chris Howes, chief executive, has set in motion a vast project. "If we have our way, within the next decade Regent Street will be transformed out of all recognition."

The Crown Estate, which is not the Queen's personal property, made a profit of £113 million to end March, up 10 per cent on last year, ahead of its forecast of £112 million.

BUSINESS TODAY

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Yield	2.69%
FTSE All share	2851.29 (+52.89)
Nikkei	16488.91 (+128.52)
New York	
Dow Jones	9194.82 (+98.81)*
S&P Composite	1175.35 (+10.17)*

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	105 1/8% (105 1/8%)
Yield	5.72% (5.88%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	7% (7 1/4%)
Libor long GR	
Future (Sep)	108.95 (108.95)

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FF	5.9827 (5.9260)	
SFr	2.4829 (2.5006)	
Yen	228.63 (231.38)	
\$ Index		104.9 (105.5)

YEN

London	£	1.6820* (1.8005)
FF	6.0435* (6.0360)	
SFr	1.5229* (1.5182)	
Yen	139.85* (141.00)	
\$ Index		112.7 (113.1)

Tokyo close Yen 141.38

DEPTH SECTORS

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$13.35 (13.00)
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London close... \$283.85 (\$291.85)
* denotes midday trading price

BA safety scare

BA is at the centre of a safety scare after the discovery of corrosion in the wing of a Boeing 747.

Routine inspections failed to detect the corrosion in a 747-100 which had eaten through part of a support in the left wing. Fifteen BA 747s are affected, on routes between London and New York, Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia, Toronto and Montreal.

Ayling's pay, page 27

Because of technical problems with the supply of unit trust prices, the figures quoted on page 30 are yesterday's. We apologise.

Consultants called in to boost Fisher's shareholder value

By PAUL DURMAN

THE latest in a long list of disappointments from Albert Fisher has prompted the food company to call in consultants to see if they can suggest ways in which the group can make more money for its shareholders.

Neil England, who conducted his own strategic review when he became chief executive in November 1996, said the consultants would have an open brief, enabling them to consider the sale of any or all of its businesses. A takeover approach last year broke down over price.

Shares in Albert Fisher, a £1.3 billion a year business, collapsed 18 per cent to a new low of 19p yesterday when it warned investors of poor trading and an "unacceptable" financial performance. Fisher's troubles included poor sales of chilled salads because of the recent bad weather; a poor pea crop; low fruit prices; expensive American lettuce because of El Niño-related flooding in California and prawn

pricing problems that followed the lifting of a European import ban.

Under Stephen Walls, who will leave after six years as chairman next month, Fisher's profits have seemed perennially vulnerable to the weather. Mr England accepts Fisher cannot keep blaming the weather for its problems but the changes he has made have failed to show through in results.

The latest share price fall leaves Fisher with a gross dividend yield of almost 25 per cent — by far the highest among the stock market's larger companies. It is understood that Mr England has wanted to cut the dividend for months, but he has been opposed by Mr Walls and the rest of the board.

Mr England said: "It is not a long term sustainable strategy for us to pay an unearned dividend." The company is now worth less than £150 million.

Commentary, page 27

Cendant auditing losses 'worse than original estimate'

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

CENDANT, the acquisitive US company that has taken over National Car Parks and the RAC this year, was yesterday plunged further into crisis when it said losses caused by irregular accounting were far worse than the original estimate.

A preliminary audit of the company's accounts showed that many of the original figures had been plucked from thin air to prop up revenue figures and the company's share price.

When the falsification of accounts was first revealed last April, the share price fell by 50 per cent, wiping out \$14 billion of (£8.5 billion) investors' money. Yesterday, the shares declined a further 20 per cent.

Earlier this year Cendant embarked on two high-profile UK acquisitions. It bought National Parking Corporation, owner of NCP car parks, for £801 million and the RAC's motoring division for £450 million.

The RAC deal was opposed by a

number of members who mounted a legal challenge. They will seize on the latest Cendant revelations as more evidence that the American group is an unsuitable partner for the RAC.

Cendant, the owner of brands such as Avis rental cars and Howard Johnson hotels, was formed by the merger of CUC and HFS last year. The accounting irregularities stem from CUC businesses.

Auditors found operating results had been artificially increased by recording fictitious revenues through reversing restructuring charge liabilities to revenues.

Cendant yesterday tried to distance itself from the errors. Michael Monaco, the finance director, said: "We are of course outraged by these most recent findings." He said the accounts had been manipulated with intent.

Walter Forbes, the chairman and former CUC chairman, said he had no knowledge of any irregularities.

Albanian assets under the hammer

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

EVER fancied running a dubious investment scheme? Everything you need is now available and for sale in Albania. Henry Butcher, the auctioneer, has been instructed to sell the assets of five Albanian "pyramid" investment funds which collapsed a year ago, taking with them most of the country's private savings.

Deloitte & Touche were appointed by the Albanian Government as administra-

tors to the schemes, which include Vefa, the largest of the scams, and whose president, Vehbi Ahmetaj, still languishes in prison.

The items for sale give some insight into the bizarre mindset of those who ran the schemes. There is real estate — offices, industrial buildings and holiday chalets — but also a floating hotel moored on the Danube near Budapest and ready to sail anywhere.

You could pick up a concrete plant or some sausage machinery or even pig and poultry rearing facilities. Should you wish to become an Albanian media mogul, a TV production suite is also available. A spokesman for Deloitte in Tirana said he could not explain the "magpie" approach to investment which also included passenger ferries. A fleet of large helicopters is on offer, essential equipment for any bud-

ding tycoon, although Deloitte explains that such craft are essential — there are few good roads in Albania and telephones are unreliable.

An item described as cognac production is intriguing but the administrators will put to rest any fantasies about marketing an exotic VSOP from the Balkans. "It's a factory, not a distillery — they pump alcohol in one end and pour out brandy at the other end."

As many as three out of four Albanian households put their savings into the schemes which promised monthly interest rates of as much as 6 per cent.

The auctions are to be held in Albania's Palace of Culture, starting this week, and Henry Butcher is providing information on a website. This is unlikely to assist many Albanians who will have to purchase the catalogue, priced at 100 lek (46p).

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Cut-price tonic for Gordon

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Gordon Brown's long-term spending plans received a short-term boost even before he announced them yesterday. The inflation figures are coming down faster than expected. Next month, the targeted rate should even hit the 2.5 per cent target for only the second time in the Brown era.

Lower inflation will automatically bring savings in public spending on index-linked pension and welfare payments, which are set by the September rise in the headline retail price index. Expect the uprating to be less than last year's embarrassing 3.6 per cent, possibly much less.

The savings will be vital if the Bank of England and Asian flu cause the economy to grow even more slowly than the Treasury's "cautious" assumptions. There is even some comfort here. Pending today's pay figures, the lower inflation is by autumn the more certainly the tide of opinion will swing firmly against any further rate rises. The chances of a soft landing should at least become better than fantasy.

Inflation is falling now, it must be said, mainly because Mr Brown and his cronies put up the cost of living so much in his first few months in office. In June, the headline rate dropped in part because last

year's mortgage rate increase fell out of the figures. Somewhat fewer lenders raised their mortgage rates last month. This is little consolation to those with mortgages to service but flatters the inflation rate.

The Brown effect should continue to work overtime, unlike factory workers. The new Chancellor insisted on a July Budget last year, as well as extra goes in November and March. It included a jump in petrol tax that will fall out of the calculations next month, cutting annual inflation by 0.3 points. Given weak high street sales, the petrol effect alone should bring RPI-X inflation down to 2.5 per cent.

The Chancellor's shiny new monetary policy pushed base rates up again last July and August, bringing further desultory rises in mortgage charges. There should be no repeat this time, unless Dr Strangelove has taken over in Threadneedle Street, so headline inflation should benefit, countering the steep rise in insurance tax.

Such factors are one-offs, just like the lousy summer weather, which has depressed sales according to the British

Retail Consortium and led to a lot of discounting to get rid of summer stocks. No matter. Good late summer inflation figures, however fluky, should ensure that base rates have peaked and help the pound to ease a bit from its artificial heights. They will also starve welfare recipients in their annual uprating. Good for gilt-edged and shares, less awful for manufacturers, terrible for pensioners and the poor. That's new Labour for you.

Harman is not ready to adapt

Resplendent in a bright summer suit, Harriet Harman had a spring in her step yesterday. Was it because she feels the burden of the Department of Social Security about to be lifted from her shoulders in the coming reshuffle? Or was it because Gordon Brown was kind to her in the spending

review? The Iron Chancellor is allowing Ms Harman a 5.5 per cent increase in her total departmental expenditure next year as well as an astonishing 15.6 per cent hike in the administration budget.

Is this wise? After all, earlier this week we were hearing from Frank Field, the MP brought into Government to think the unthinkable on welfare, saying that up to £7 billion a year is being lost to benefit fraud. Then there are reports that the £1 billion ICL Pathway project, which would see the distribution of benefits through Post Offices brought on-line, is about to be scrapped. And then there is the exceptionally slow progress of the proposals Mrs Harman inherited from Peter Lilley for a root and branch rethink of the way benefits are processed and handed out. The Change programme, as it is called, might just bring the Benefits Agency into the 1990s as the rest of us rush into the new millennium.

The one part of this programme which might bring the biggest savings is Adapt. In this programme four different consortia were asked to shadow regional offices of the Benefits Agency to see whether there were ways to improve how the agency worked and so save money. One scheme, from the team led by US group EDS, claimed it could save £7 billion over 10 years. However it would also cost 20,000 jobs, so it was ruled out of court. Another plan for welfare action zones seemed to get a more enthusiastic response.

However, when the Benefits Agency asked the consultants to run the zones on a cut price basis, they soon backed out of the door, muttering comments such as: "If this is public-private partnership, I'm a Dutchman."

The Department of Social Security is a giant behemoth that needs to be brought under control. While there may be sensible, fiscal reasons why, with the economy teetering on the edge of re-

session, controls on the benefits budget should not be too tight. The failure to rein back administration costs is to go against the principles of sound management that New Labour wants to promote. Ms Harman seems reluctant to tackle the costs of running the benefits system and this spending review will go no way to dealing with the problem.

Fishing for more excuses

Albert Fisher's 1995 annual report bore the slogan: "We continue to make progress." Was this: a) the triumph of hope over experience? b) a naive statement by a management which did not have a clue about the future? or c) a desperate attempt by Stephen Walls, the chairman, to keep investors' spirits up and stop them running for the exit? If it was c) then Mr Walls did his shareholders a disservice as Albert Fisher shares, buffeted by another profits warning, are now less than a third of the price they were when that report was published.

Mr Walls will soon leave, but the company's main skill

remains finding excuses for disappointing figures. Yesterday it delivered one of the first "wet June" warnings and added in, for good measure, a poor pea harvest. Hold on. Hasn't Fisher used that one before, along with the overly cold sea hitting shellfish growth and, of course, El Niño? No. The pea harvest was used a few years ago by Christian Salvesen.

With this latest bout of bad news comes a ray of hope. The company has asked Lazard Brothers and "a leading firm of independent consultants" to advise the board on "appropriate methods to rebuild shareholder value". "Stop making excuses and get on with running the business" is the best advice, and Albert Fisher does not have to pay £100,000 for it.

Careless driving

YESTERDAY'S least surprising revelation was that losses from what are charmingly called "accounting irregularities" will cost Centand twice as much as originally estimated. But what an unexpected bonus this is for the anti-motoring lobby. Car-eating ministers must be rubbing their hands at the thought that National Car Parks, Avis car hire and the RAC will all be beaten up in America's least appetising corporate soufflé.

Lorien rise unable to lift shares

Shares in Lorien, the information technology services company, fell 66p to 712½p on disappointment that first-half profits did not increase by as much as expected. The pre-tax total soared from £899,000 in the first half of last year to £2.49 million in the six months to May, but analysts had forecast £3.5 million. Turnover rose 29 per cent to £68 million.

Michael Heeley, chairman and chief executive, said there were £1 million of non-recurring costs, some of which related to the formation of an enterprise resource planning division. Mr Heeley does not see any signs of a downturn in the booming IT sector and forecast a strong second half with an active recruitment programme. The interim dividend is held at 2.5p a share. *Tempus, page 28*



Bob Ayling pointedly refused to endorse the controversial tail fins that have replaced the clearly British livery

BA cabin dispute left Ayling with no bonus

By JON ASHWORTH

LAST summer's damaging industrial dispute with British Airways cabin crew cost Bob Ayling, the chief executive, his £100,000 annual bonus, according to new figures.

Mr Ayling, who yesterday fielded angry questions at the BA annual meeting in London, saw his pay packet shrink to £458,000 (£513,000) last year. He received no bonus, compared with £100,000 in 1997, and £160,000 in 1996 which was the year when Mr Ayling initiated his unpopular cost-cutting reforms at BA.

The industrial action contributed to a sharp fall in BA's pre-tax profits. They were £580 million compared with £640 million in the year to March 31. The BA share price has underperformed the market, and BA was forced to deny rumours that Mr Ayling might leave the company. There is continuing disquiet over the decision to "drop the Britishness" from BA tail fins.

Speculation that BA is preparing to abandon its current livery intensified yesterday, after Mr Ayling pointedly refused to endorse the controversial designs. Instead, he told the AGM: "Customers everywhere like our new red, white and blue colours."

While insisting that the tail fins were popular with "most people abroad and most young people here", Mr Ayling went on: "Of course we want every aspect of British Airways' image to communicate positively to our customers all around the world — here and abroad."

Sir Colin Marshall, the BA chairman, said he realised

Greetings buys Copywrite

INTERNATIONAL Greetings is hoping that Action Man will help it to beef up its profits next year. The greeting cards and wrapping paper supplier has acquired Copywrite, a children's character stationery business, from receivership for £2.1 million.

Copywrite makes products such as ring binders and pencil cases that depict characters

and logos from Disney, Barbie and Action Man.

Nick Fisher, joint chief executive of Greetings, said that Copywrite would open distribution channels in Europe for some of the group's products.

Greetings expects The Cracker Company, which it bought in May and which is already integrated into existing operations, to add to earnings this year.

Copywrite is expected to be-

C&W in \$2bn Internet deal with MCI

By OLIVER AUGUST

CABLE & WIRELESS has struck a deal with MCI to buy its entire Internet business for \$2 billion (about £1.22 billion). MCI and WorldCom will now receive final regulatory approval for their \$40 billion merger and BT will receive \$7 billion for its 20 per cent MCI stake.

The deal includes the \$625 million that C&W already agreed to pay for part of the MCI assets, including technical equipment such as cable routers. An official announcement is expected as soon as US regulators have viewed the sales contract.

C&W has now added MCI's list of residential and business customers to the purchase, further increasing its roster of transatlantic clients. The shares rose 2½p to 810p. C&W is believed to have seen off competition from AT&T and other US telecoms companies to buy the MCI business.

The US Justice Department and the European Commission insisted on a sale of the MCI Internet business to prevent the new telecoms group from dominating the Internet market. Rivals claimed MCI-WorldCom would operate more than half of international Internet traffic. WorldCom's UNet is the biggest internet service provider.

Under the terms of the agreement MCI struck with the European Commission, it is not allowed to lure old customers back from C&W. The EU approved the merger earlier this month.

After the sale of the first tranche in May, C&W took MCI to court because it claimed it had a right of first refusal on buying the rest of the business.

The Federal Communications Commission must give its approval for the WorldCom-MCI merger in addition to the Justice Department. The FCC decision, expected next month, is seen as a formality.

MCI is said to have preferred a foreign company bidder because it will be less of a commercial threat. Jeffrey Kagan, an independent telecoms analyst, said: "It is better for MCI to sell the Internet assets in one chunk because it instantly creates another competitor, which would make for a more competitive marketplace."

Yo! to pot

SIMON Woodroffe, the entrepreneur behind London's two Yo! Sushi bars, seems to be letting his imagination run out of control. As he prepares to open two further Yo! Sushi bars — at Selfridges and in Finchley Road — Mr Woodroffe is busy developing a host of other ideas as he seeks to turn Yo! into "a brand to take around the world".

Other ventures include: Baby Yo! and Yo! you Kids (children's wear and merchandise); Yo! to Wear (for adults); Body Yo! (sports wear); Yo! to Go (sushi delivery); Yo! Event Catering (the creative juices obviously ran dry at this point); and Yo!ell (a hotel concept).

Some have yet to see the light of day, but Mr Woodroffe tells me he isn't finished yet. "When marijuana is legalised we'll launch Yo! to Blow."



World Cup, when Romanians were too interested in their football team beating England to worry about unsold porkers. Now, in desperation, Mr Supperstone has re-advertised the farm. On the plus side he has managed to sell the abattoir next door.

On a roll

AFTER my item last week about a revolutionary new toilet seat, I was interested to read in USA Today a tale of two Scotsmen who are taking on the might of Kimberly-Clark and Procter & Gamble with a new type of loo roll. Brothers Willy and Tim Patterson-Brown are rolling out what they claim is the first toilet tissue made from pure cotton fibre. After a year of test-marketing, the duo have gone nationwide with a TV ad campaign. As our bravehearts have sunk \$15 million (£9 million) into the venture, this is clearly no flash in the pan.

Pig Stoy

FLOGGING pigs in Romania never seemed like an attractive prospect. And so it has proved for Tony Supperstone, a partner at BDO Stoy Hayward in London. He admitted he "drew the short straw" when the World Bank appointed him as liquidator of a giant pig farm in Bailesti, in the back of beyond in the former Eastern Bloc country.

That was in October, when Mr Supperstone sold 40,000 of the pigs on the farm and put the rest of the estate up for sale. Then came the long, cold Romanian winter (the assets remained frozen). Then the



"I hope it's not a perennial problem"

Well mature

FINGERS crossed today for Highland Distillers, which is bidding at Sotheby's for a rare 17th century history of Orkney. If it secures the manuscript, which experts believe could go for £30,000, Highland, bidding in conjunction with Orkney Islands Council, plans to donate it to the Orkney library.

DOMINIC WALSH

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MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE tops 6,000 on back of interest rate optimism

CITY investors embarked on a spending spree yesterday in the belief that interest rates may have peaked. Last month's drop in the inflation rate came as a pleasant surprise and coincided with the latest survey from the British Retail Consortium showing a further reduction in high street sales. Shares surged back above the 6,000 level fuelled by double figure gains among popular sectors such as banks, financials and pharmaceuticals. Stock shortages and an opening rally on Wall Street ensured prices closed near their best levels of the day.



Joint chief executives Anders Hedlund, left, and Nick Fisher, saw International Greetings shares unchanged

The FTSE 100 index finished 142.0 higher at 6,100.2 as the total number of shares traded reached 934 million. The performance of second line stocks was more modest. The FTSE 250 index ended 20.1 up at 5,638.1, while the FTSE Smaller Cap was just 0.2 up at 2,576.8.

Star performers included Legal & General up 50p to 747p, British Energy 35p to 557p, GKN 52p to 892p, Vodafone 42p to 840p, and BAT Industries 34p to 694p.

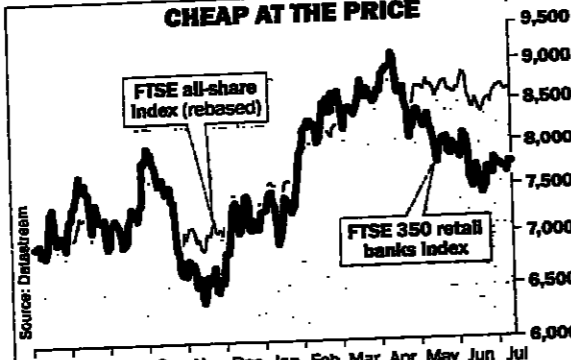
Shares closing 250p, or 45 per cent, down at 300p making it the worst performer in the FTSE 350 index. The flowers and horticultural products company blamed problems at its Gardening Direct subsidiary which will leave profits for the full year "substantial" below current market expectations. Brokers had been looking for pre-tax profits of £3 million compared with £6.25 million last year.

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threat to cut the dividend. The group made £12.6 million in the first half and analysts had been looking for £36 million for the year. The shares responded with a fall of 4p to 19p.

Geest fell 3p to 540p with the group failing to make much impression on brokers at the start of a planned series of City presentations. Talk of a profits downgrading by one of its own brokers ahead of next week's results left Reuters down 8p to 661p, after briefly touching 647p. Word is that ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, has cut its profit forecast by £15 million to £595 million.

Daily Mail General Trust 'A' shares fell 15p to £28.25, while the ordinary shares held steady at £28.25. Viscount Rothermere, chairman, has sold 1,800 'A' shares at £28.17. He continues to hold 8.13 million, or 8.6 per cent. Winnie the Pooh may have been impressed but City investors showed more caution leaving International Greetings unchanged at 642p. The group has bought Copywrite, a supplier of children's stationery that utilises Disney characters, from the receiver for £21 million.



THE banks appear to be back in vogue. The buyers made a welcome return but stock shortages prevented them from picking up stock and served to squeeze prices higher. Lloyds TSB led the way with a jump of 52p, or 6 per cent, to 914p in heavy turnover of 215 million, while Bank of Scotland put on 41p to 732p. Abbey National 64p to 795p, Halifax 40p to 795p, NatWest Bank 57p to £11.80, and Standard Chartered 28p to 673p. Woolwich rose 15p to 246p, and Alliance & Leicester 44p to 887p, amid revived talk that the two may be planning to merge.

It was the first day of dealings for Baldwin Industrial Services following a placing at 112p. The shares opened at 114p before closing at their best with a premium of 13p at 125p. GILT-EDGED: The drop in the inflation rate and subdued retail sales put some fizz back into the bond market where prices were marked sharply higher. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt rose £0.14 to £108.95, while among conventional issues Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 was £0.04 up at £110.15.

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MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo (Nikkei Average), Hong Kong (Hang Seng), Amsterdam (Amex Index), Sydney (Sydney 200), Frankfurt (DAF), Singapore (Straits), Brussels (General), Paris (CAC-40), Zurich (SIX), London (FT 30, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 350, FTSE Europe 100, FTSE All-Share, FTSE Non Financials, FTSE Fixed Interest, FTSE Govt Secs, SEQAD Volume, Bargains, SEAD Volume, US, German Mark, Exchange Index, Bank of England official close, ESDR, RPI, RPI, RPI).

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Advial Group, Advance Dev Mkts, Anglo Siberian Oil, Baldwin Inds Svs, Biocomp Warrants, British Regl Air, CCM Distribution, City Government, Coca-Cola Beverages, Dresdner RCM End, Dresdner RCM Inc, Dresdner RCM Zero, ECoast, Game, HW, Interior Services, JES Software Techs, London Town Wis, Murray Financial, Policy Master Grp, Quanta, Sports & Outdr Media, Touchstone Grp, Triorder Tech, Williams Non Cum.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Cox Invoice n/p (400), First Choice n/p (130), LEPCO n/p (40), Martin Ind n/p (25), Oliver Group n/p (28), Omnimedia n/p (60).

MAJOR CHANGES

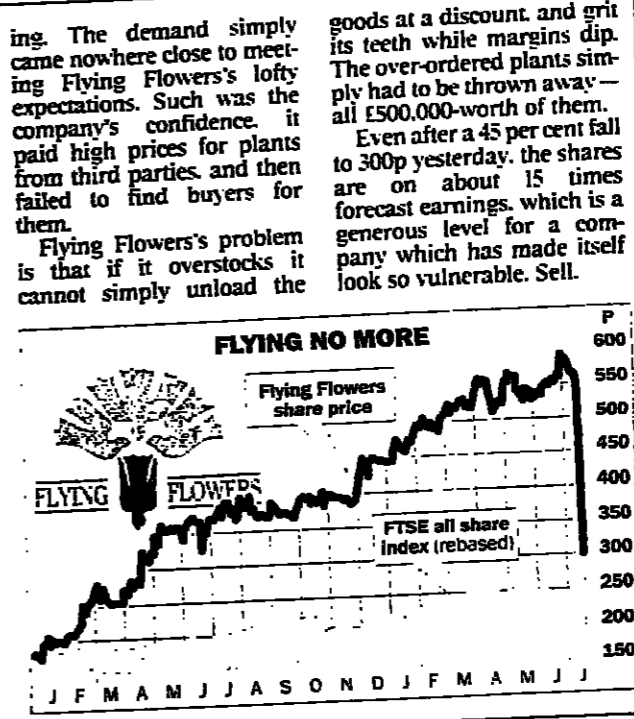
Table of major changes including Shield Diag, Legal & Gen, Pison, GRE, Smiths Inds, Lloyds TSB, M&A, Halifax, KEO Adv Tech, La La Rue, Wickes, Premier Farmal, Hays.

TEMPUS Seeking a Net gain

With the Telecom Italia alliance under strain, Dick Brown's grand plans for Cable & Wireless in Europe may be unravelling. But on the other side of the Atlantic, the telecoms group is still humming. Cable & Wireless is favourite to buy the remaining and most valuable part of MCI Communications' Internet business, which handles a quarter of worldwide Net traffic. If successful, C&W will have killed two birds with one stone. It will achieve critical mass in the crucial US market and become a world leader in the fast growth Internet market.

Mr Brown has already agreed to buy MCI's wholesale Internet operations for £390 million. MCI is a forced seller because it is struggling to win regulatory approval for its £23 billion merger with WorldCom. The retail Internet activities of MCI are worth a lot more than the backbone network so C&W will have to pay maybe £1.2 billion. A deal is expected this week or next as WorldCom and MCI rush to obtain US regulatory approval before September. C&W is well placed with MCI because it has already bought a third of the Internet business, can pay quickly, has no regulatory barriers to hurdle and is rated a less competitive telco than other potential buyers, such as AT&T.

Flying Flowers WONDER STOCKS have a nasty habit of revealing themselves as all too ordinary and fallible when investors least expect it. Flying Flowers has been growing its profits and its share price faster than its earnings. Pre-tax profits had sprouted from £11 million in 1994 to £6.24 million last year. The handful of analysts who follow the stock were confidently expecting £8.8 million this year. Too good to be true? How right you are. One space of over-eager buying, and profit forecasts for the current year have had to be smartly pruned back to £6.5 million.



The over-ordering was of plant "plugs"; the tiny shoots that are ordered from newspaper advertisements or special offers, which arrive by post in trays ready for plant-

ing. The demand simply came nowhere close to meeting Flying Flowers's lofty expectations. Such was the company's confidence, it paid high prices for plants from third parties, and then failed to find buyers for them. Flying Flowers's problem is that if it overstocks it cannot simply unload the goods at a discount, and grit its teeth while margins dip. The over-ordered plants simply had to be thrown away—all £500,000-worth of them. Even after a 45 per cent fall to 300p yesterday, the shares are on about 15 times forecast earnings, which is a generous level for a company which has made itself look so vulnerable. Sell.

admitted overestimating the residual value of used cars. Goode points out that cars make up just 11 per cent of its fleet and says many of the problems at Arriva were confined to Arriva alone. It claims that even if there is a recession, the second-hand vans and trucks market will hold up as people tighten their belts and avoid buying new.

Strong arguments, but the cack-handed presentation yesterday suggests that the share price may struggle to reflect the management's rosy view of the future. Lorien remains confident its profits will grow by an average of 25 per cent a year for many years to come. Michael Healey, chairman, admits contracting out IT personnel

is becoming a commodity business with falling margins—so Lorien is switching more resources to long term contracts, project management and sexy high-margin enterprise resource planning. This centres on a deal with Baan to sell the Dutch company's software to UK property industry companies. Mr Healey reckons revenue will reach £2 million in the first year, and will be double for several years after that, down to grow at 40 per cent. If he can succeed in upgrading his 52,000 freelance IT contractors from commodity work to more profitable business, Lorien's margins could rocket. One-off development costs of £1 million will leave profits trailing expectations of £8 million this year—hence the 60p fall to 712p yesterday. Earnings should still reach £7p, putting Lorien on a p/e of 26, falling to 20 next year. A solid hold.

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEES, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

Table of LONDON METAL EXCHANGE prices for various metals like Gold, Silver, Platinum, etc.

Table of LONDON GRAIN FUTURES prices for Wheat, Barley, etc.

Table of COMMODITY FUTURES prices for various commodities.

Table of DOLLAR RATES for various countries and currencies.

Table of WALL STREET stock prices for various companies.

Table of ASIA stock prices for various Asian markets.

Table of EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS for various currencies and terms.

Table of GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

Table of STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES for various terms.

Table of FTSE VOLUMES for various sectors.

Table of POLICIES for various insurance and financial companies.

SPENDING REVIEW

Chancellor sets out his plans for spending an extra £40bn

Below are extracts of the White Paper Modern Public Services for Britain: Investing in Reform which sets out how public expenditure has been reallocated and how the Government intends to root out waste.

Prudent spending plans: consistent with the Government's two strict fiscal rules, current expenditure will grow by 2% per cent on average in real terms and public sector net investment will almost double to 1 1/2 per cent of GDP over the next three years.

The new plans will help to increase sustainable growth and employment through increasing standards in education and training, promoting science and innovation and the new Investing in Britain Fund which will modernise our infrastructure. The plans will promote fairness and opportunity by improving the quality of public services. Everyone will benefit from a modernised health service and a more effective strategy for crime reduction. Targeted measures, including a new sure start programme for children up to three and the New Deal for Communities will also help to tackle poverty to ensure everyone has the opportunity to succeed and provide efficient and modern public services by introducing innovative ways of managing budgets across departments and by improving external scrutiny and the efficiency of public services.

The Government will deliver these objectives by: Investing in reform to modernise public services by, for example, cutting bureaucracy to improve front line services.

Targeting support to where it is most needed, putting a new emphasis on preventing problems and pruning wasteful government expenditure and subsidies.

Reallocating money to its priorities and delivering its manifesto commitments. Over 50 per cent of the increase in departmental expenditure limits and local authority spending over the next three years will be targeted on education and the NHS — the annual increase on these programmes will be double that in other services.

Education: additional investment of £19 billion — in line with the manifesto commitment to increase the share of GDP spent on education — will underpin the drive to raise standards.

NHS: the additional provision of over £20 billion over the next three years will modernise the health services.

Transport: additional investment of £1.7 billion over 3 years will improve public transport and modernise the road and rail network.

Crime: matching tough punishment with, for the first time, substantial investment in crime prevention.

Regeneration: additional investment of £3.6 billion for housing and £800 million for New Deal for Communities to combat social exclusion.

The Government will monitor the new public service agreements closely and report regularly on the progress that has been made in delivering the targets set in this White Paper.

THE public sector will spend more than £330 billion this year — equivalent to over £5,000 for every man, woman

and child in the UK. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), announced in June 1997, has taken a root and branch look at how this money is spent to ensure that departments meet the Government's priorities during the remainder of this parliament and beyond.

Departmental Ministers have undertaken thirty zero-based reviews of their departments' objectives, policies and spending plans to determine how best their programmes can contribute to the achievement of the Government's objectives, including in particular its aims of enhancing opportunity and fairness, promoting employment and investment for sustained economic growth and increasing efficiency.

Six of the reviews, including those on the criminal justice system and young children, have been carried out on a cross-departmental basis to ensure that policies and services are designed to meet the full range of public concerns in an integrated and co-ordinated way.

A ministerial committee on public expenditure, chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has co-ordinated the reviews and examined the allocation of resources between Departments to reshape the pattern of expenditure over the next three years.

This White Paper shows how expenditure has been allocated between spending programmes to deliver the Government's priorities. It demonstrates how the Government is combining prudence and stability in public finances with investment and reform in public services.

GOVERNMENT PLANS

THE Government made it clear that it would work within the existing spending plans for the first two years of this Parliament while it tackled the structural deficit it inherited and set new policy objectives and spending priorities.

Fiscal prudence has succeeded in getting borrowing under control, and laid the basis for three-year spending plans which will deliver strong public finances and improved public services. The new plans and planning and control regime announced in the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report will result in:

Prudent spending plans consistent with the Government's two strict fiscal rules, current public expenditure will grow by 2% per cent on average in real terms over the next three years. A new Investing in Britain Fund will ensure that public sector net investment will almost double to 1 1/2 per cent of GDP.

Greater stability: firm three-year plans have been set for departments to enable them to plan ahead and to provide a more stable foundation for managing public services.

Separate capital and current budgets to ensure that essential capital investment is not squeezed out by short-term



Looking for a springboard to the next election: Chancellor Gordon Brown on his way to announce spending plans

pressures as in the past. It will also pave the way for the introduction of resource accounting and budgeting (RAB), which will improve the planning and controlling of spending and increase the incentives to manage assets effectively.

Modern and flexible role for the Government: it will act as an enabler and promoter as well as owner and controller, with the test being whether public or private investment offers the best means of securing improved public services. The Government will dispose of assets that are no longer required in order to fund new requirements for the 21st century. The National Asset Register has enabled the Government to identify asset sales of £12 billion over the next three years.

SETTING PLANS

THE new Departmental objectives, plans and spending limits set out in this White Paper will help to deliver the Government's key objectives of increasing the sustainable level of growth and employment, promoting fairness and opportunity and delivering efficient and modern public services.

The Government's strategy for securing these objectives is based on the principle of "money for modernisation". Investing in reform: the Government is determined to improve public services by securing a commitment from all departments to modernise

and reform in return for the money allocated to them. Departments will apply modern performance management techniques in delivering clear and quantifiable targets by the end of the Parliament.

Reforms across departments will result in: Resources being reallocated from bureaucracy to front line services;

Services being targeted more effectively where they are most needed; Greater emphasis on prevention rather than simply dealing with the symptoms of deep rooted social problems; Wasteful expenditure and subsidies being cut, and the commitment to competition enhanced.

Reallocating spending to the Government's priorities such as education and the NHS to deliver its manifesto commitments.

The Government is committed to raising the sustainable growth rate to increase living standards and job opportunities. The CSR builds on the steps taken in the previous Budgets to secure macroeconomic stability, encourage work, improve productivity and promote enterprise.

The Government is determined to ensure that public spending is directed to delivering its objectives of high and stable levels of growth and employment. Properly directed public spending should help individuals, business and the country to meet the long-term challenges of the future. Public investment is crucial to

our economic and social fabric. And increasingly that investment will be complemented by public and private initiatives to tackle long running under-investment in the UK's infrastructure.

A successful economy needs a well-educated and adaptable workforce as well as a modern and efficient infrastructure. That is why the Government has, for example, decided to make a significant investment in education, so that we have the skilled workforce the country needs, in infrastructure, so that business has the transport system it can rely on and in science, so that we can create the technological base that will give our firms and our country a competitive edge in the future. The range of policy reforms that will flow from the CSR include:

Education and training reform, underpinned by additional investment of £19 billion over the next three years, will lead to significant long-term improvements in the quality, flexibility and employability of the workforce. Additional investment in key reforms will, for example, strengthen headteacher leadership skills, increase resources in the classroom, improve literacy and numeracy and introduce innovative approaches to learning through the National Grid for Learning to raise achievement levels in schools;

The Investing in Britain Fund, which will nearly double net public capital investment over the next three years from £7 billion to £13 billion,

high quality public services and strong communities. So the Government is investing in the NHS to ensure high quality health care is available on the basis of need, not ability to pay. It is investing in the criminal justice system and crime prevention. It is investing in new educational opportunities so that all children have the best start in life and it is investing in housing and economic opportunity in our most deprived communities.

The CSR will build on the wide-ranging reforms that the Government is already taking forward to promote fairness and opportunity. These include:

Reforms to modernise the NHS, which will be underpinned by additional provision of over £20 billion in the UK over the next three years to improve health and reduce health inequalities;

A new criminal justice strategy, which is tough on crime and, for the first time, also makes a significant investment in tackling the underlying causes of crime through an evidence based crime reduction strategy;

As part of a new emphasis on prevention and tackling the causes of deprivation, at source, new educational opportunities will be provided for young children, particularly those at risk. A new "Sure Start" programme, bringing together a range of education, health and other services targeted on the very young will help to ensure that children, particularly those at risk of social exclusion, are ready to learn when they arrive at school.

AS important as how much the Government spends is how effectively public money is spent. By ensuring that every pound of the public's money is spent efficiently and effectively public services can be enhanced for the benefit of all. So the investment in public services announced in the CSR is matched by reforms to deliver enhanced efficiency and improved effectiveness in public spending. New public service agreements between each department and the Treasury will include their new objectives and measurable efficiency and effectiveness targets. Progress will be monitored by a continuous process of scrutiny and audit, overseen by a Cabinet Committee, continuing the work of the PX committee, and chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The range of new initiatives that will now be

implemented, include: New cross-departmental budgets: for example, to improve the co-ordination of services for young children and for run down estates;

A new Invest to Save budget which will encourage different parts of the public sector to work together to improve service delivery and cut costs;

New quality standards for all departments: for example, new departmental investment strategies will help to ensure that we get the best possible return on every pound invested;

Challenging new efficiency targets for key public services such as the NHS which will help to deliver better services;

Procurement reforms to secure significant cost savings to improve services: for example, savings in procurement costs, together with efficiency savings elsewhere in defence, will enable the UK to have a more effective front line at lower cost;

Reforms in the management of public sector sickness absence will cut absence rates by 20 per cent over the next three years, bringing the public sector rate closer to that in the private sector.

NEXT STEPS

THE policies and spending plans in this White Paper will be reinforced by the move to resource accounting and budgeting which will apply private sector reporting and budgeting practices to government — as the basis for future planning from 2000-01.

Other White Papers and departmental documents will be published shortly, including those on an Integrated Transport Policy and Local Government. These will provide more detail on the new policies and demonstrate that a coherent approach is being taken across the full range of government policies in the drive to deliver modern, efficient and effective public services.

The Government will ensure that the policy reforms and targets are delivered by: Monitoring closely each department's public service agreement;

Regular reporting of progress on the main departmental targets and manifesto commitments, including in the Government's annual report;

Monitoring progress on the growth and employment strategy in the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report;

Reporting annually on poverty trends and the delivery of the main anti-poverty measures;

Keeping Departmental Investment Strategies under review to ensure the Government's investment strategy as a whole is being delivered;

Requiring outstanding reviews to deliver against tight timetables and maintaining the pressure on departments to secure further service improvements.

This is what Labour was elected for. After a year of mounting cynicism about style over substance, after hundreds of column inches on inter-spindoctoral warfare, the Government has finally come up with the money to back its manifesto commitments — lots of it. The £40 billion in extra spending on health and education is a very large number and the largesse does not stop there. There is an extra £1.1 billion for spending on Britain's science base, £2 billion more for transport, £800 million extra for Britain's sink estates and even extra cash for the BBC World Service, surely one of Britain's finest exports. Gordon Brown said yesterday that the Government was, line by line, delivering on its manifesto commitments, and so it seems. It may, in fact, be doing even better than most people dared hope. At the beginning of last year, the Institute of Public Policy Research published a pamphlet called Promoting Prosperity, the result of a collaboration with 16 business leaders. Yesterday, Gerry Holtam, Director of the IPPR, expressed surprise and delight that virtually all of its agenda had been addressed by the Government and with even more money than could realistically have been expected. Promoting Prosperity

Nice review, pity about the public-sector pay

asked for £3.76 billion to be spent on improving skills, £700 million on helping the long-term unemployed back to work, and £500 million on strengthening science and transport. Every item on this wish list is going to be exceeded comfortably.

So is there anything wrong with Mr Brown's statement? On a day when the Chancellor appears to have delivered unadulterated joy, the obvious question after "is it enough?" — "churlish as it is" — is "Can he afford it?"

The answer is yes, as long as the economy doesn't go into a slump. In this context, yesterday's large fall in inflation is extremely welcome news. It should mean that interest rates have peaked — the Monetary Policy Committee's good sense permitting — and that the economy will slide gracefully to a soft landing. If the economic downturn is not too deep, the public finances will remain robust enough to bear this extra spending. In addition, yesterday's numbers suggest that the inflation assumptions on which the Chancellor's extra spending is predicated look plausible.



JANET BUSH

Kenneth Clarke moved decisively to cut the huge budget deficit that he had created.

In the process, they ensured their party's 1997 defeat and provided a superb start for Mr Brown.

There is one cloud threatening thunder on Mr Brown's day in the sun. The Chancellor seems prepared to spend billions on capital investment in schools and hospitals but he will not, apparently, countenance a meaningful increase in the pay of teachers and nurses.

He said yesterday that public pay would be set through independent pay review bodies which would be charged with recommending pay rates which would help to recruit, reward and motivate those working in public services. But then he said that any recommendations would have to be in line with his inflation target.

Taken literally, this means that, in perpetuity, no nurse or teacher will receive increments of more than 2.5 per cent a year. This would, of course, fail to recruit, reward or motivate anybody, particularly in the inadequately paid teaching and nursing

professions. Britain has 350,000 nurses, a substantial pool of labour, and yet the health service is acutely short of nurses. The reason, quite simply, is that so many of those who train leave the profession because they are not given an adequate rate for the job.

A more accurate reading of the Chancellor's statements on pay is probably that, taking the private and public sectors together, average earnings must not grow by more than about 4.5 per cent a year (2.5 per cent inflation and 2 per cent growth in productivity).

The problem is that, however much Mr Brown exhorts the private sector to pay itself less (using the threat of higher interest rates), it may not obey. Skills shortages, which the Government is trying to address but which are a long-term issue, mean that many companies have no choice but to pay over the odds. That would mean that public sector pay continues to be squeezed.

New Labour has talked a great deal of sense about the importance to the success of Britain of its human capital. Let us hope that the Chancellor is flexible about the use of his billions, spending a considerable amount on the pay of those who work in the Government's priority public services. They will not be transformed without it.

Advertisement for Fantasy League. Text: THE ORIGINAL FANTASY LEAGUE JOINS THE TIMES. Includes a soccer ball logo and the phrase 'CHANGING TIMES' at the bottom.

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and change. Includes various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

WITHDRAWN advertisement with a large 'X' over the text. Text includes: 'WITHDRAWN', 'If an ad misleads, we're here to stamp it out.', 'Advertising Standards Authority', '2, Westcheap Lane, London WC1E 7HW 0171 300 5555 info@www.asa.org.uk'.

Vertical sidebar advertisements for various products and services, including 'POLYBLOC BEVERAGES', 'BREWERS PUBS & REST', 'BUILDING MATERIALS', 'CHEMICALS', and 'CONSTRUCTION'.

Equities close near best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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Rachel Kelly looks at the benefits of living far above ground

I'm the queen (or king) of the tower

There is cheering news for tower-lovers. A fine example has come up for sale, and for once it is habitable and in London.

The trouble with towers is that most are in mid-country, follies to an aristocratic whim, or totally uninhabitable, says Gwyn Hedley, who runs Pavilions of Splendour, a company which sells listed and unusual buildings.

Towers are in constant demand by romantics, but climbing eight floors to go to bed can dampen the ardour," Mr Hedley says. "I wouldn't buy one myself, it's too much like hard work — and you can count on the running costs for a tower being at least double those for an equivalent-sized house."

Steeplejacks and scaffolding must be involved each time external maintenance is required. Towers are also more exposed to the elements, since many are taller than the trees or buildings which surround them.

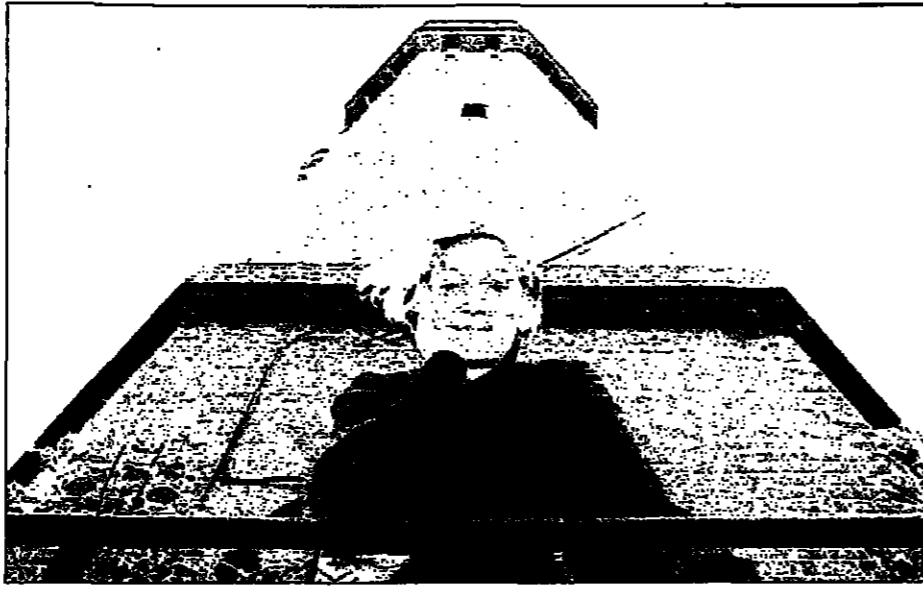
Pavilions of Splendour is selling two towers: an uninhabitable folly in 170 acres of woodland outside Tunbridge Wells in Kent, at between £350,000 and £400,000, and one of Britain's tallest water towers in Bedworth, Warwickshire, which is waiting for restoration and is priced at £50,000.

An easier purchase for those with more money to spend would be Gypsy Tower, a 120ft converted church tower on the borders of Dulwich, with distant views of Canary Wharf. It has four bedrooms, a library, a music room, a roof garden and all the advantages of close proximity to Central London.

The disadvantage, for most prospective purchasers, is its £1.2 million price tag.

Its owner, a 29-year-old, Michael Edwards Hammond, is the managing director of a computer company. He bought the derelict church tower three years ago and has spent £650,000 on restoration, employing 11 master builders, some of whom had worked on Windsor Castle.

The house is now on the



Elspeth Beard outside her home: a renovated water tower in Godalming, Surrey

market with FPD Savills. "It is a remarkable property," says Robin Chatwin, of Savills, "and the painstaking renovation is reflected in the selling price."

Mr Edwards Hammond admits that the tower would not suit those who enjoy chatting over the garden fence. Local people consider him a little strange, he says.

"I believe they call me the lord of the manor — the house is definitely imposing and castle-like. It would not suit everyone, by any means. But I thrive on that: I couldn't live in a dull home. It's not going to be popular with those who

want a four-bedroom house like all their neighbours. It's a fashionable London pied-à-terre, not a convenient family home."

But lack of convenience is outweighed by the joys of tower living, says the *Masterchef* champion Gerry Goldwyre, 43, who lives with his wife, Susan, in a converted water tower in Dalkeith, Midlothian.

He bought the tower from the local council in 1987 for £8,800, renovated it at an estimated cost of £160,000 and has recently turned down offers for the tower of more than £250,000. "The tower is breathtaking, with amazing views of Fife, 60

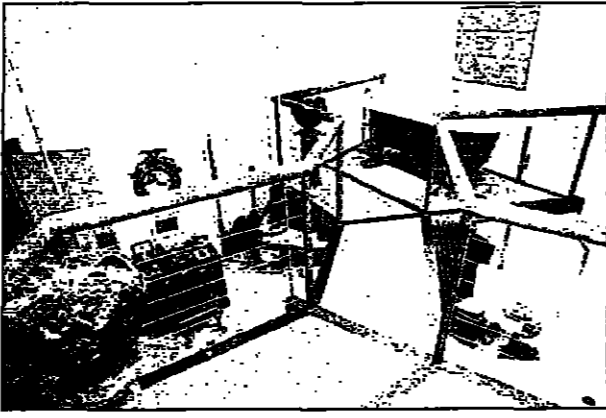
miles away," Mr Goldwyre says. Inside, the iron spiral staircase connects the six floors with a wide living room and observation deck at the top. The Scottish chef also uses the building to house his restaurant, "The Watchtower".

The worst aspect for aspiring tower-lovers is the considerable restoration work that such buildings often need.

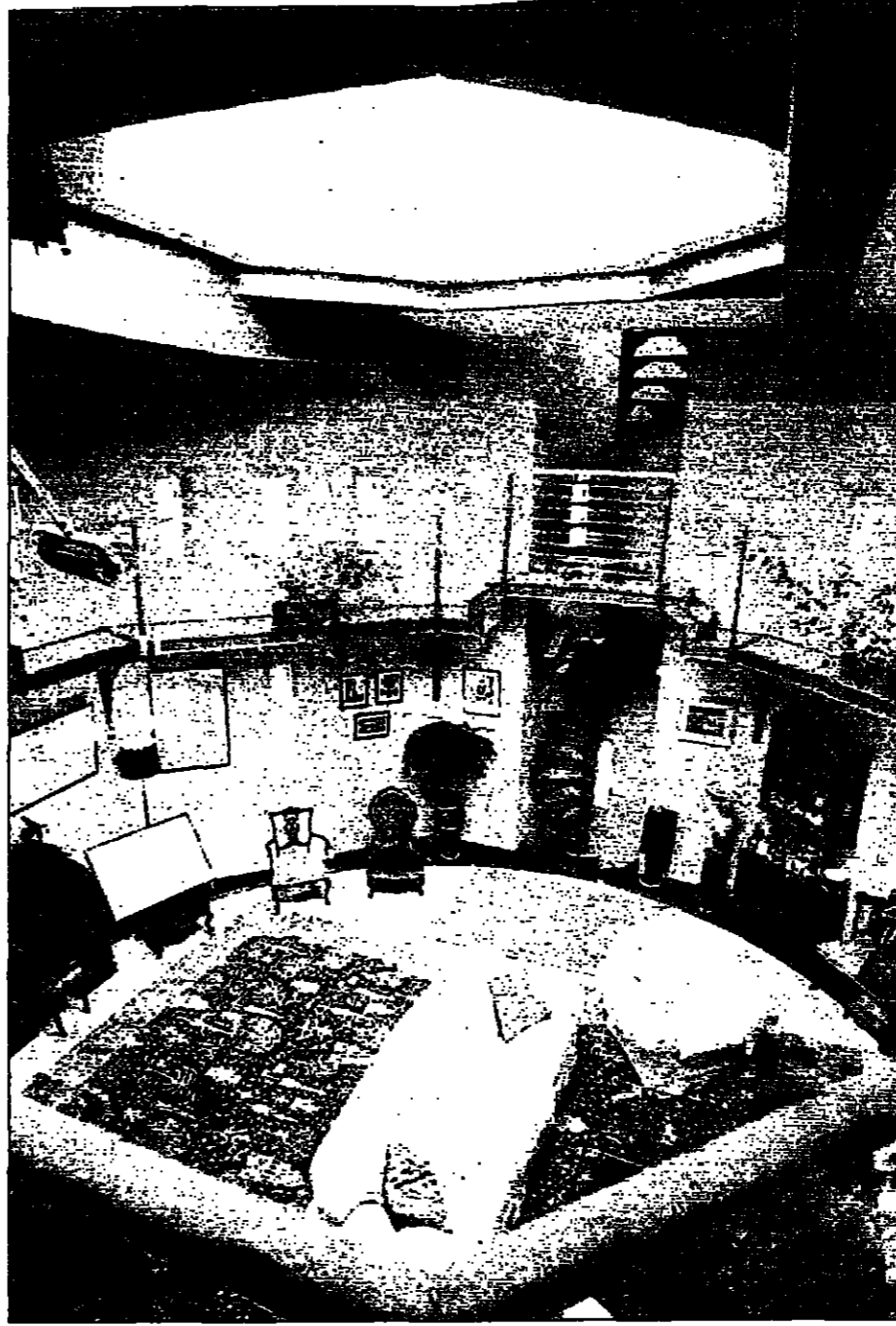
When Mr Goldwyre bought the tower, it was an empty shell: "There were no floors or walls. It was just an empty octagonal brick cigar box. The renovation was the most difficult time. When I was working 16 hours a day, and my fingernails were gnawed down to my wrists, I often wondered why I was bothering."

For two years Mr Goldwyre worked full-time on the dilapidated tower, often risking life and limb by abseiling down the 130ft walls to carry out vital renovations.

Mr Goldwyre also found himself held up by endless bureaucracy at the hands of local authorities and Historic Scotland, who were adamant that the character of the building should not change, even though it was falling down. The charity of friends became vital, since it was impossible for the couple to live in the wa-



A bath on the landing? In a tower, anything is possible



Inside Elspeth Beard's tower, totally transformed by months of hard work

ter tower while it was being renovated: "We slept wherever we could — it was quite embarrassing at times."

Even now, 11 years after buying the house, Mr Goldwyre admits that there are some drawbacks to tower living. The unusual home has also earned him the reputation of being a neighbourhood eccentric: "I'm not known as the person. I'm known as the house."

Elspeth Beard, 39, who lives in a renovated water tower in Godalming, Surrey, has also encountered local animosity. "Many people tried to stop me moving into the tower — the Surrey locals tend to fear that sort of change."

Renovation was a nightmare for Ms Beard, an architect, who bought the disused

tower in 1988 from Thames Water for £121,000. It took six years to make the building habitable and to get through the mounds of red tape provided by Waverley Borough Council, which insisted that two staircases be installed to meet fire regulations.

Ms Beard spent about £100,000 on repairs: 62 windows had to be custom-made for the property, a new roof specially constructed and full scaffolding erected for two years while the building was made watertight.

During the long renovation, Ms Beard slept in a tent with her newborn daughter. "I just couldn't face the dust, build-

ers' mess and general unpleasantness of the tower," she says. "To make matters worse, during the building work I separated from my partner."

Now happily installed in the house, Ms Beard still finds maintenance a headache. Small repairs which would take the owners of normal homes five minutes turn into a long operation, involving harnesses, ropes and pulleys. "And it's lucky I'm a fit person, otherwise I'd risk a heart attack every time I carried the shopping upstairs," she says.

Send an SAE for Pavilions of Splendour's listed buildings for sale to: 22 Mount View Road, London N4 4FJ. Additional research by Alex Slater

Pimlico offers a passport to space

Cubitt's 'little' houses are big on style

In the Ealing comedy *Passport to Pimlico* the cheerful Cockney inhabitants try their hand at self-government. Customs barriers are erected and ration cards joyfully torn up in this colourful pocket of an otherwise dreary-looking post-war London.

Much of the same neighbourliness and independent spirit exists in Pimlico today, says Simon Edwards of the local Winkworth branch. "People live here a long time. About 60 per cent of those who buy through us continue to trade in Pimlico. Many come back here after raising a family in the country when they want a pied-à-terre. It's fun and not too gentrified." Because of its slightly down-at-heel grandeur, it is also one of the last areas of Central London where canny buyers can still scoop up a bargain.

For historical reasons, Pimlico never enjoyed the social cachet of Belgravia, only half a mile to the west. Thomas Cubitt was the prime architect of both areas in the 1830s and 1840s, with Pimlico planned as a cheaper outer buffer to Belgravia. The grand houses of Pimlico were just a little narrower than their Belgravia cousins, the proportions just a little less luxurious. But though their elegance is now a bit faded, the houses are hardly poky.

Consider 86 St George's Square, on the market for £1.5 million through Chesterfield. This palatial, Cubitt-designed residence, built on six floors, feels more like a country mansion than a town house. The ground-floor dining room would comfortably seat 20, while the dimensions of the drawing room — about 35ft by 20ft — are staggering by London standards.

Floor-to-ceiling shutters frame the tall windows. Original plasterwork decorates the ceiling. With seven bedrooms, and a separate staff flat, there is no shortage of space for entertaining friends.

Johnny Fuller of Chesterfield goes says the price includes a long lease, but the freehold could probably also be included in the price. "And when you think we have Cubitt houses in Belgravia on at £3 million, Pimlico looks great value," he says.

Estate agents in Pimlico are reporting increasingly brisk trade. Patrick Aschan at Chestertons has recently sold a five-storey, Cubitt-designed house in Sutherland Street.

"It was in need of a little updating, but we took it on at £595,000 and had four offers in the first week," he says. "Eventually, it went to scaled bids and sold for much more than the asking price."

The area is smartening up its image, according to Joanna Hebel of Hamptons, which has recently sold houses in Cambridge Street for record prices.

"In the past, the fact that Pimlico contained so many small hotels gave it a seedy reputation," she says. "But new regulations have meant that many of these have been closed or refurbished. Londoners who simply drive through Pimlico on Warwick Way and never venture into the Pimlico 'grid' have no idea how peaceful it is on a Saturday afternoon. It's a relative heaven."

That "grid" is a one-way traffic system that protects the quiet, tree-lined streets from noise and pollution, according to Pimlico resident and Winkworth estate agent Kate White-Thomson. "You can expect to pay £135,000 to £145,000 for a typical one-bedroom flat," she says, "although an immaculate flat will fetch a lot more. We've just sold a two-bedroom flat in Warwick Square for £800,000."

Pimlico is well stocked in amenities for parents and sociable singles. Among many excellent restaurants is Bois-dale, which serves haggis and 150 different malt whiskies. The cast of *Friends*, when they recently visited London, spent four hours drinking coffee at Caffè Uno.

The Moreton Street triangle has almost as many art galleries and interior design shops per square yard as Belgravia and parents have a good choice of local schools.

All this for the price of a red-brick terrace house south of the river. Where else could you stroll from the West End in 30 minutes and return home on a summer evening to white stuccoed streets blooming with lilac?

LOIS LETTS

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Could you resist?

From the outside, the two houses do not look especially exciting. But their unexceptional façades hide breathtaking interiors. No 107 Bramfield Road in Battersea is for sale at £395,000 and 25 Redcliffe Road in Fulham at £2 million.

The Battersea house has curtailless windows of smoky white glass set in its Victorian exterior. The Fulham house occasionally reveals a glint of a stainless-steel staircase.

Simon Ellis, owner of the Battersea house, says: "People are intrigued. Passers-by ring the doorbell and ask why all the windows have frosted glass. It gives the house a sense of anonymity."

In 1988 Mr Ellis paid £185,000 for the crumbling, four-bedroom house with its leaky roof. By 1995, he had saved the £130,000 needed for a minimalist makeover and now the three-storey house has an open-plan ground floor with a large living space, wooden floors throughout and cream-coloured walls, with only occasional splashes of colour. On the first floor is one bedroom where there were once four and on the third is an open-plan office.

The ceilings have been created from floating panels, hiding the original cornice. Mr Ellis says: "People are unprepared as they open the door. They either love it or hate it. I admit that it is quite a specific taste."

Mr Ellis is selling to set up a new marital home. "Cara, my fiancée, Cara, has said that we must sell by the time of our wedding next June."

Gutting the house over a six-month period did not thrill his neighbours. The builders were reported to the council for rubbish bonfires. Mr Ellis says:

Simon Williams, of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, says: "The best advice is to ensure that all neighbours are aware before work starts of what is going on." After this, the most common route is via the local authority's environmental health department. A less confrontational approach is to contact Mediation UK, a charity that acts as an independent third party.

Mike Spink is the joint owner and developer of the Ful-



Battersea: beauty behind the frosted windows

HOW TO DEVELOP A PROPERTY

If you are going to do it properly, unless you have experience you have to employ the right professionals to guide you through it," says Robert Randall, Mr Spink's partner and legal adviser.

Check whether the property is freehold or leasehold. If it is leasehold, check with your landlord before you start renovations. Best to do this through a solicitor. If you have a mortgage, you need mortgage consent from the lender before you make alterations.

Now draw up plans and designs. An architect may be necessary. Changes may require planning permission. Submit a formal application to your local authority.

If it is a listed building, you must apply for consent for your proposals. If it is in a conservation area you need consent from your local authority.

Party walls should not be tampered with until a structural engineer has surveyed the area involved, issued a party wall award and informed the neighbour. After alterations the walls must be re-checked and you may have to pay compensation, contact the local district surveyor to advise him or her about your proposals.



Fulham: worth £2 million?

ham house, which hides a new stainless-steel staircase at the front of the building behind its Georgian exterior. His firm, Coll Hill Spink Developers, bought and developed 25 Redcliffe Road in Fulham. Houses in the road sell for about £1.6 million, but Mr Spink hopes to get £2 million.

"Modern interiors are much in demand with our buyers," he says. "When you open the door to the traditional portico entrance of the Georgian house in Redcliffe Road, you may experience some vertigo. Mr Spink has taken out corridors and landings, and instead uses sea-green glass walkways as an entry to the three-bedroom house. Mr Spink is unwilling to reveal the cost of his conversion, but the bathroom alone ran to more than £15,000."

But dramatic interiors are not necessarily to everyone's taste. They may reduce the appeal for home-seekers interested in a magnolia interior on which they can inscribe their own style. And the installation of large spaces often means a loss of bedrooms — a traditional way of valuing a house.

LUCY ADAMS
Mediation UK: (0177 904 6661); Douglas & Gordon (0171-225 1225) is agent for both houses.

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Wentzenbaker and the origin of species

THE TIMES ARTS

POP Buddy Guy leads London's blues invasion



Lighting up time

As a celebrated musical partnership ends, Sir Simon Rattle tells John Allison about his plans for life after the CBSO

The leaving of Birmingham

When Sir Simon Rattle says "do not believe everything you see in the papers" he does not mean to discourage people from reading interviews with him.

had it. It's wonderful that in Sakari Oramo the orchestra has chosen someone who can give them things I can't give.

until I record them - not until 2002 with the Vienna Phil. Ah, Vienna. Rattle talks about the Vienna Philharmonic with a lot of affection.

"They have entirely different traditions, though there is a certain level of ability, a staggering level, to be taken for granted. The Vienna Phil is essentially an opera orchestra.



Simon Rattle: "Our orchestras have to spend so much time jumping through hoops to prove their right to exist at all."

'After 18 years with the CBSO, amazingly, we are still all speaking to each other'

through hoops trying to prove our right to exist at all. The amount of wasted effort in British orchestras really makes me weep.

Does he worry that orchestras, essentially 19th-century set-ups, won't exist in the 21st century? "Orchestras are fragmenting in a good way.

— I'm so sick of saying it, and the politicians throwing up their hands and thinking 'There they go again' — but it also costs money to have a workforce that doesn't have a means of expression.

tion is very short-sighted. As for my work, they say conductors start getting competent in their sixties. I'm looking forward to that."

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THE TIMES WEEKLY THEATRE. Listings for various theatres including Apollo, Lyric, and others. Includes show titles like Carmen, The Piano, and The Merchant of Venice.

Lighting up time

This was Bizet confined to the concert platform. But Sunday's Carmen

The chief architect was Sir Colin Davis, long famed for his performances of Berlioz

Davis was happy to indulge his orchestra in the famous set pieces: a marvellously languorous prelude to Act III

OPERA Carmen Barbican

Her female contempt when José dares to listen to the call back to barracks

The mahogany sheen in Borodina's voice was at its finest in the final two acts when Carmen knows already that the chips are down

His tenor is fast developing the baritone qualities of his mentor, Plácido Domingo

The LSO took a punt on two singers still in their twenties as Escamillo and Micaëla. Nicolay Dobrev's Torcador

JOHN HIGGINS



Evolutionary zeal: Ingeborga Dapkunaite (Millie) and Michael Feast (Robert Fitzroy/Ian) in Timberlake Wertenbaker's fine new play, 'After Darwin'

Top prize for originality

Suddenly the theatrical air is thickening with the spirit both of scientific inquiry and of inquiry about scientists

self saying that 'After Darwin' is probably the richest, most absorbing piece that the author of 'Our Country's Good'

black who has learnt to adapt. If Lindsay Posner's production introduced us to the stage manager

THEATRE After Darwin Hampstead, NWS

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Absolute madness

Heracles Gate, W11

Why performances of this Euripides tragedy are rare is a puzzle. Its mythological context presents few problems

The role Zeus played in the hero's birth, sneaking into his mother's bed disguised as her husband Amphitryon

JOHN HIGGINS

Not for the chicken

Mances Greenwich Festival

Quite what ancient artistic convention dictates that the postnuclear world should be portrayed as a quasi-medieval cesspit

Certainty is an attractive but rare commodity in the Fura Delf Baus world

JEREMY KINGSTON

Raw chickens in general have a bad time of it in Mances

Raw chickens in general have a bad time of it in Mances when they are not being ripped bit by it

In a way it is better to abandon all hope of interpretation with Mances: Fura are symbolists, image-makers

Like being trapped inside a world drawn by Goya, there is no end to the horror. Visceral, exhilarating, terrifying and at times oddly beautiful

HETTIE JUDAH

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

CANALETTO: A selection of over 20 paintings and drawings by the supreme chronicler of Venice goes on show here

NATIONAL GALLERY (0171-633 3321): JULIA WOLFE: The British Company's second London production: Justin Church's play about a young Victorian minor whose artistic talent isolates him from his community

ELSEWHERE CHELTENHAM: Richard Hickox celebrates his 50th birthday conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra joined by the Leeds Philharmonic Chorus in a concert featuring Smetana's patriotic portrait

NEW LONDON SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

AFTER DARWIN: Timberlake Wertenbaker's absorbing latest: Lindsay Posner directs Jason Watkins as Darwin and Michael Feast as Captain Fitzroy

HERACLES: Euripides' historical production of Euripides' tragedy in the late Kenneth McMillan's translation

MANSER: Historical production of Euripides' tragedy in the late Kenneth McMillan's translation

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies

NEW RELEASES

GURU IN SEVEN (18): Can Sanjay beat seven women in seven days? Low-budget British film with sadistic humour

THE GREAT GATSBY (15): Fresh Australian treatment of the old story about the outlaw couple on the run

MOJO (15): Thrills and rock'n'roll in the 1950s. Small beer for cinema, though Jez Butterworth's film of his own stage hit boasts live performances from Ian Hart, Ewan Bremner and Harold Pinter

TOUCH (15): Uncertain version of Enrico Lombardi's novel about a man with the healing gift, preyed upon by others

ART GALLERIES

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POP

Raving across Berlin

Techno beats in the heart of a city

The motorways around Berlin were jammed with young partygoers all last Friday. Blowing whistles, blasting dance music and staging spontaneous parties in car parks, their shared sense of anticipation was almost tangible. The rave scene may have dissipated greatly in Britain over the past decade, but it still holds powerful sway in Germany.

A million hedonists flooded Berlin over the weekend for the Love Parade, a free dance party held every July in the Tiergarten, a vast city centre park. Europe's answer to the Rio carnival passed off with typically Teutonic efficiency.

The event began as an unofficial street party in 1989, just months before the Berlin Wall crumbled, and was attended by 150 people. But these days Love Parade's founder, Matthias Roesingh, who records under the name Dr Motte, runs a huge commercial enterprise and enjoys the full co-operation of the civic authorities. Understandably so, since the city stands to collect £50 million, more than ten times the cost of staging the event. The parade has been officially designated a "political demonstration" to ease the bureaucratic path, even though there was precious little political content to the revels, other than a vague message of unity under the slightly sinister-sounding slogan, "One world, one future".

The Love Parade Berlin

ravers. Each was loaded with huge speakers pumping out relentless techno and house music at deafening volume. Thousands of flamboyantly dressed revellers danced alongside the floats while thousands more lined the two-mile route, some clinging to trees or lampposts.

The climax came at the Golden Angel statue, an imperial monument towering over the heart of the Tiergarten. It was commandeered for sets by superstar DJs, including Britain's Carl Cox, Germany's Sven Vath, Dr Motte and Max Lenz, alias the million-selling techno artist Westbam. Motte and Lenz jointly wrote the official theme to Love Parade 1998, which is virtually guaranteed to top the German charts next week. Fittingly, this was the final record played by Westbam from an elevated platform facing the Brandenburg Gate as Love Parade's 11.30 curfew loomed.

After the outdoor finale, the ravers dispersed to countless clubs. There were also dozens of spontaneous parties as revellers gathered on roadsides and danced to music blaring from car stereos.

One of the biggest, and most official, post-parade events was Love Nation, held in a giant East Berlin warehouse by the River Spree. New York hip-hop pioneer Afrika Bambaata and Westbam played rapturously received sets of punishingly loud techno to a crowd of 8,000.

STEPHEN DALTON

ARTS

TOMORROW Is Godzilla any good

Still alive, well and wailing

POP: The old order of the blues may be dying, but don't write off the 12-bar just yet. Clive Davis reports

Is the glass half-empty or half-full? Pessimists and optimists can always draw their own conclusions about the health of contemporary blues. The obituary columns certainly tell their own story. Guitarists Johnny Copeland, Luther Allison and Buddy Guy's harmonica-playing partner Junior Wells all succumbed to illness in the past few months, all of them well before their time.

Every issue of *Living Blues*, the Mississippi-based journal of record, brings its portion of unwelcome news. A hale and hearty-looking Jimmy Rogers, former sideman to Muddy Waters, smiled out of the cover of the October issue; weeks later he was dead of cancer. Another voice lost.

Nevertheless, those elder statesmen B.B. King and John Lee Hooker are still with us. King, who never seems tire of hitting the road, is back on these shores this month. Although Hooker officially went into retirement a couple of years ago, he has ventured out for occasional live dates. The old men still sing the songs.

More to the point, though, a generation of younger American performers is doing more than just meticulously reproduce the sounds of vintage 78s. Two of them, Corey Harris and Eric Bibb, will bring their soulful acoustic music to London's concert halls this month, Harris providing the support set for Buddy Guy at the Festival Hall on Sunday, while Bibb appears opposite the ever-eclectic singer-guitar-

ist Taj Mahal in the Barbican's *Shades of Blues* one-day festival on Sunday week.

Along with the excellent singer-songwriter Keb' Mo' (alias Kevin Moore), these troubadours represent the virtues of authentic human voices in a musical culture that is increasingly given over to faceless technology.

Like Taj Mahal, who has acted as a father-figure to the new revivalists, Harris and Bibb are both cosmopolitan figures. Bibb, son of the folk singer Leon Bibb and nephew of the Modern Jazz Quartet leader John Lewis, made his home in Stockholm, where he

Aykroyd took his musical crusade a step further when he became one of the initial investors in the House of Blues chain of nightspots, an example of the blues being repackaged for the new age of consumerism.

The House of Blues was born in the unlikelyst of settings: Cambridge, Massachusetts—better known as the cradle of Harvard than as a home for ageing sharecroppers. Isaac Tigrett, the company's guiding light, had previously been instrumental in the global advancement of the Hard Rock Café chain. Having sold his share in the business at the end of the 1980s, he donated most of his multi-million-pound profits to charity, studied with a guru in India, and subsequently returned to America to devote himself to the kind of music he had grown up with near Memphis.

With Aykroyd on the board of directors, the company has now expanded to locations including Chicago, Los Angeles and New Orleans, providing entertainment for an MTV audience which may not know its Muddy Waters from its Blind Lemon Jefferson.

The blues are being repackaged for the new age of consumerism

recorded the acclaimed album *Good Stuff*, an amalgam of down-home blues, folk melodies and spirituals.

Now based in Virginia, Harris holds a degree in anthropology, and undertook field studies in Cameroon. His most recent album, *Fish Ain't Bitin'*, is a marvellously evocative mixture of traditional and original tunes, bayou shouts and fruity brass arrangements.

Optimists can also point to the unflagging popularity of good-time R&B and soul music as purveyed by the Blues Brothers Band, who play two nights at the Festival Hall from Wednesday. Led by guitarist Steve Cropper, stalwart of the Stax house band Booker T and the MGs, the group arrives on the coat-tails of John Landis's *Blues Brothers 2000*, the sequel to his cult film *The Blues Brothers*.

The film may have received tepid notices from film reviewers, but at least it comes with a soundtrack that ranges from B.B. King asking—probably for the ten-thousandth time in his career—*How Blue Can You Get?* to soul queen Aretha Franklin's new version of *Respect*.

Considering that the whole Blues Brothers act began 20-odd years ago as a sideline for the comedians Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi, its influence has been remarkable.

Traditionalists tend to be wary of the HoB ethos, arguing that its crossover programming (making room for the likes of Bruce Springsteen) and glossy decor amounts to a Disneyfication of the blues experience. But it is worth bearing in mind that unabashed entertainment has always been an honourable part of the black American tradition.

If many of the omens are favourable, problems remain nonetheless. Radio airplay, for one, is still relatively scarce in America, especially as programming pushes stations towards a homogenised mainstream. More troubling still is the fact that blues music has never regained the black audience that deserted it in favour of Motown in the 1960s. As Buddy Guy observed of his own Chicago club in a recent article in *Ebony* magazine: "If there are five black people in my place during a performance, three of them work for me."

The Blues Brothers Band play the Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-960 4242), tonight and tomorrow. Buddy Guy and Corey Harris are at the Festival Hall on Sunday. Taj Mahal and Eric Bibb play the Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891) on July 26.



The blues will cross the generations at Buddy Guy's Festival Hall gig this Sunday

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On paper, it is hard to pinpoint why the dance acts Beastie Boys and Chemical Brothers have both recently named the Beta Band as Britain's biggest new group. For a start, the all-male quartet, who consist of three Scots and an English bassist, favour real instruments over samples and sequenced beats. Moreover, the achingly slow pace of their songs, their largely traditional musical influences and a blatant disregard for production values, should set them a world apart from their club-friendly contemporaries.

Live, however, the appeal became instantly apparent. Like their techno-obsessed admirers, the Beta Band's *raison d'être* is to experiment with sounds, albeit in a wilfully haphazard fashion. Rather than playing straightforward rock melodies, the rhythm-driven group fused a random ensemble of instruments to create a series of open-ended bluesy groove.

In Brighton last Friday to begin a ten-date British tour, the band was all but obscured by a capacity crowd crammed into the small, low-ceilinged Concorde. Having sauntered onto a tiny stage to the sounds of old-fashioned fairground music, the group struck up a seemingly unstructured cacophony of noise, led by Stephen Mason's harmonica playing and backed by Robin Jones's off-kilter drumming. Within less than a minute, however, the quartet—which also included John McLean on DJ decks, keyboards, cymbals and tambourine and Richard Green on bass, bongos and trumpet—had locked on to a common, psychedelic wavelength.

Over the course of the next two hours, the Beta Band conjured up a succession of apparently effortless, potentially endless tracks that re-

The Beta Band Brighton

played only a handful of shows, had still to learn how to perform a few new numbers live.

Highlights included *Push It Out*, the laid-back opening track from their forthcoming EP *Los Amigos del Beta Bandidos*, and folk-ballad *Dry The Rain*, which appeared last year on the *Champion Versions*, an EP part-mixed by the Verve's Nick McCabe. Despite its phalanx of high-profile fans, the Beta Band won't be releasing an album until early next year. Clearly, these music-lovers like to take their time.

LISA VERRICO

Billie's eye of the tiger in adversity

Billie Myers However Grand, WI

WHEN an artist takes to the indoor, night-time stage in sunglasses, it can reveal arrogance or disguise nerves. In Billie Myers's case, the shades were down chiefly to conceal some rotten luck.

In recent months the singer, who is from Coventry, has been caught in a tornado of activity whipped up by her *Kiss The Rain* single after its impact in America. But on returning home last week Myers woke to an eye infection that caused the cancellation of two dates and meant she started this important

London gig hamstrung. This is a pivotal week for her, since Monday brought the release of *Tell Me*, the follow-up single that will determine whether the momentum of that debut hit is to multiply.

Her set opened to a gruesome audio imbalance and made the first song, *Having Trouble With The Language*, unfortunately apposite. But Myers's determination emphasised what an earnest artist she is and within a few songs an equilibrium was established after she had shown the bottle to restart *You Send Me Flying* when she got her verses in a twist.

This was a performance by a band with a frontwoman rather than a self-important solo endeavour, and there were times when her musicians flooded the stage with a bombast that seemed to belong in some Midwest stadium. An early interpolation of Lenny Kravitz's *Are You Gonna Go My Way* was it odds with the sensitivity of originals from her *Growing Pains* album such as *A Few Words Too Many*, as if her enthusiasm means she is not sure whether to come back as Jimi Hendrix or Carole King.

Confidence climbing as the set progressed, the robust *Tell Me* and her wistful *Signatures*, *Kiss The Rain*, made a strong double feature, even if sharp self-editing would have reduced these and other songs more incisive. By encore time, Myers had friends in to reggae up *The Shark* and the *Mermaid* and the glasses were of to reveal a happier face.

JAZZ McCoy Tyner/Kenny Garrett Barbican

THE pairing of McCoy Tyner's Latin All Stars with the Kenny Garrett Quartet seemed, in theory at least, a dream ticket. Each leader rose to prominence under the eye of a jazz legend—Tyner as pianist with John Coltrane's quartet, Garrett with Miles Davis's last electric band—and both have subsequently established reputations not only with their respective acoustic units but also as eloquent soloists, capable of extracting every last ounce of energy from their material.

In the event, however, the mixture proved a little too rich, the vitality a little too relentless, for some as early as the interval, many audience members were lamenting the lack of light and shade in Garrett's performance.

The Garrett band, indeed, charged at their opening piece, an original titled *Two Down and One Across*, like the proverbial bull at a gate. With his back to the audience, Davis fashion, Garrett hurtled through the tune's changes, spinning long, pos-

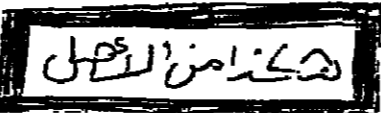
itionally breathless also lines over Chris Dave's turbulent drums. Shedrick Mitchell's piano and Nat Reeves's pounding bass.

A brief respite of sorts, a more contemplative tribute to the saxophonist Billy Harper, followed. But then the band temperature was raised back to boiling point with a murderously fast visit to the Coltrane classic *Giant Steps*, and a couple more originals, the last incorporating rap-style vocals about (appropriately enough) the unforgiving pace of contemporary life.

If the power and heat of Garrett's quartet are best experienced late-night in a club, the percussion-heavy music of McCoy Tyner's Latin All Stars is probably better suited to an open-air venue, with

CHRIS PARKER

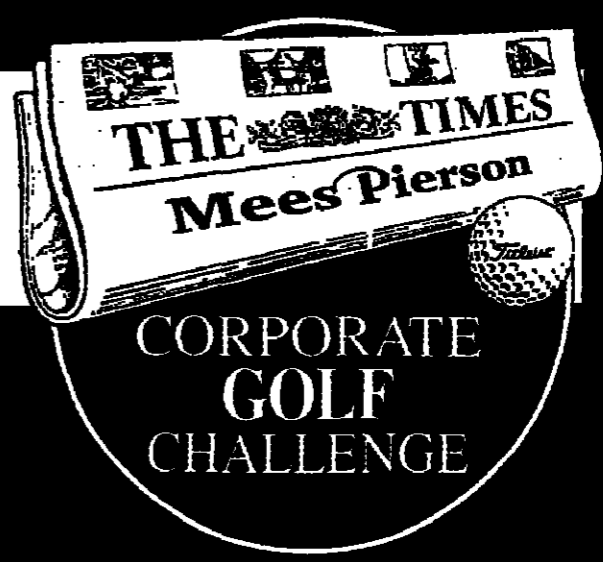
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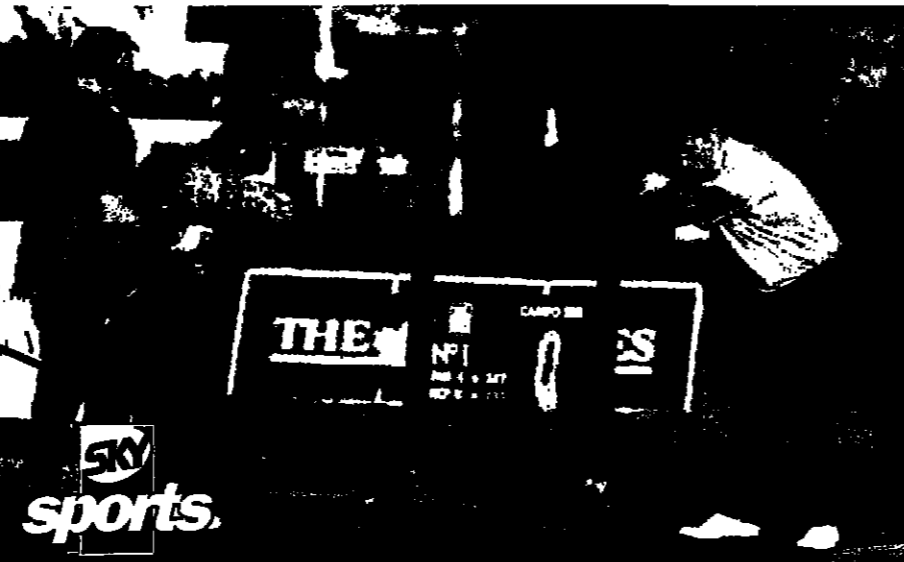
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TO OUR RACECARD

Cardinals star on schedule to rewrite major league baseball history
McGwire homes in on record

BY KEITH BLACKMORE
THE conventional wisdom for anyone hoping to mount a serious challenge to the most hallowed of major league baseball records...



McGwire hammers his fortieth homer of the season for St Louis Cardinals as he closes in on the 1961 record of Roger Maris, who hit 61

pace. He will finish with 72 homers. In his record-setting year, Maris hit his fortieth homer on July 25. In 1927, Ruth did not hit his fortieth until August 22. Only injury, or an untypical slump in form, seems likely to stop McGwire now...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Injury fears emerge to worry coaches

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVING
TEN players from the Emerging England and Wales squads are involved in the JJB Super League game between Sheffield Eagles and Halifax Blue Sox...

BASKETBALL

New deal rewrites league's future

BY NICHOLAS HARLING
THE Basketball League has negotiated its longest single sponsorship contract by completing a £1.2 million, five-year deal with Uni-ball...

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns for different sports: BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, GOLF, SHOOTING, SPEEDWAY, SQUASH, TENNIS, CRICKET, HURLINGHAM CLUB, and CROQUET. Each column lists recent events, winners, and scores.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing upcoming fixtures for various sports including Cricket, Football, Rugby League, and Tennis, with details on time and location.

CATTERICK

Racing results for Catterick, including Thunderer, 2.20 Thank Heavens, 3.50 Milliesime, and 2.20 Swale Pasture Novice Median.

3.50 DOWDARD BRIDGE SELLING STAKES

Racing results for Dowdard Bridge Selling Stakes, listing winners and odds.

4.20 PALLET HILL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

Racing results for Pallet Hill Maiden Fillies Stakes, listing winners and odds.

4.50 BECKSIDE HANDICAP

Racing results for Beckside Handicap, listing winners and odds.

3.20 LOW GREEN HANDICAP

Racing results for Low Green Handicap, listing winners and odds.

3.50 DONCASTER

Racing results for Doncaster, including Thunderer and 6.35 Doncaster Apprentice Handicap.

6.35 DONCASTER APPRENTICE HANDICAP

Racing results for Doncaster Apprentice Handicap, listing winners and odds.

7.05 GRESLEY CONDITIONS STAKES

Racing results for Gresley Conditions Stakes, listing winners and odds.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Summary of course specialists and their performance records.

7.35 SASHA LYONS MEMORIAL TROPHY

Racing results for Sasha Lyons Memorial Trophy, listing winners and odds.

8.05 EBF VYNER NOVICE STAKES

Racing results for EBF Vyner Novice Stakes, listing winners and odds.

8.35 ARKSEY STAKES

Racing results for Arksey Stakes, listing winners and odds.

9.05 NORTH CLIFFE HANDICAP

Racing results for North Cliffe Handicap, listing winners and odds.

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

Large table showing results for various company golf days, including names of participants, scores, and winners.

Royston French was banned for seven days for riding an ill-judged race on 5-2 on favourite Splendid Isolation...

Darren Moffatt was banned for eight days after striking out with his whip at fellow apprentice Dean Mernagh...

CRICKET: SOMERSET FIND RUNS EASY TO COME BY AS TOURING TEAM'S ATTACK SHOWS LITTLE BITE

Sri Lankans suffer on eye-opening first day

By IVO TENNANT

TAUNTON (first day of three: Somerset won toss; the Sri Lankans, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 358 runs behind Somerset)

AT THE start of their first tour of England for seven years, the Sri Lankans have been afforded not the hospitality of the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel, but a fixture in the more bucolic setting of Taunton. However, just as it is to judge a side on its initial day in the field, suffice to say that the attack they fielded yesterday was unable to restrict a number of Somerset batsmen from collecting runs much as they liked.

Somerset's declaration gave the Sri Lankans five overs' batting before the close, in which they lost two wickets. Before that, Keith Parsons achieved his first century of the season, Marcus Trescothick made 95 and Mark Lathwell struck a half-century which was full of the kind of shots he played before his technique was dissected by Australians and television commentators alike at Test level five years ago. His approach to batting was once again joyous and uncluttered. To judge by the size of the crowd, the Sri Lankans' arrival has caused less of a stir in Taunton than the review by

The Times restaurant critic of the new brasserie at the Castle Hotel, where they are staying. His comments about the populace here are now being debated in Parliament and the television crew that has descended did not come to interview Arjuna Ranatunga. Better, surely, for MPs to discuss just why it is that the holders of the World Cup are not granted a more meaningful itinerary in England.

The senior cricketers who have come contemplated arriving late, for their sole Test match will not be played until six weeks hence. That, of course, would have got the tour off to a shambolic start and, anyway, they say they wish to help the younger players. In fact, of the seven bowlers who were used yesterday, only Villavaranan has yet to play Test cricket.

Wickramasinghe was the pick of the attack, although not simply because he finished with four wickets. On a flat pitch, he maintained a respectable medium pace, broke an opening partnership which was making runs with alacrity, accounted for Lathwell, and was the one bowler to keep the rate of scoring within bounds. There will be much for him to do this summer.

All the other bowlers, be they spin or of lolling medi-



Trescothick, of Somerset, takes toll of the Sri Lankans' bowling during his innings of 95 at Taunton yesterday

um pace, were treated with some disdain. Bowler and Trescothick began with 47 off the first seven overs. Parsons and Lathwell had no desire to play themselves in. Still, Wickramasinghe's opening spell was one of 8-1-29-2 and Trescothick was missed twice, when on 20 and 28, which can just about be excused at this stage of the tour.

Trescothick's innings of 95 came from 143 balls that

included 16 fours and a six. He played on, eventually, to Dharmasena when looking to force off the back foot. Lathwell was still more exciting to watch as he threw the bat at anything over-pitched, albeit with minimal foot movement. When he was out, caught at the wicket off one Wickramasinghe dug in, it was through batting in the forceful manner he will always favour.

Parsons achieved the only other century of his career against another touring side. Young Australia, three years ago on this ground. Uncapped six years since making his debut, he batted with a confidence that suggested his future is more secure than that.

The declaration was delayed until he had reached his century, which came with his sixteenth four, off 147 balls.

Not every captain is as magnanimous as Bowler was now. The Sri Lankans began their innings disastrously. Jayasuriya seemingly trod on his stumps in the opening over, taking his time to departing as he queried whether the wind had not blown the balls off. Then the left-handed Arnold was taken at third slip off Jones. It was not the greatest of starts to a tour, but they have not been alone in that.

Cullinan's class gives boost to South Africa

By JOHN STERN

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of three: Durham won toss; Durham, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 352 runs behind the South Africans)

THE South Africans would have preferred to sit back, relax and enjoy a gem of innings from Daryll Cullinan, but more concerns about the fitness of their squad emerged yesterday. However, the prognosis is that their bill of health will be reasonably clean come the fourth Test at Trent Bridge next week.

Shaun Pollock withdrew from their team yesterday morning with a slight hamstring strain, which was more of a precautionary measure than anything else. Then, in the fifth over of the day, Gerry Liebenberg was struck on the right index finger by Melvyn Betts and retired hurt. Having had an X-ray, he returned to the crease after the dismissal of Hansie Cronje and made an excellent 85, adding 232 for the third wicket with Cullinan.

The sight of Jacques Kallis receiving throw-downs in the nets late in the afternoon was a promising one for the touring team, indicating that his own hamstring injury is on the mend and he is likely to play against Derbyshire at the weekend, as is Lance Klusener.

Durham selected their strongest available side, with John Morris missing again because of his recurring calf injury. That gave another opportunity to Michael Gough, the England Under-19 batsman, to open the innings.

David Boon, the Durham

captain, won the toss and put the South Africans in. The wicket had bounce, and that is what may have enticed him, but it was wonderfully true, which is just the way Cullinan likes it. His innings was a joy to watch, full of awesomely easy cover drives. Having reached his hundred before tea, he then went on the attack, becoming less discriminating in his shot selection. Even when Durham posted a fielder on the deep cover boundary, Cullinan just cut through extra cover to find the rope.

His third fifty took only 57 balls, his fourth a mere 24, taking him to a double hundred that brought the declaration from Cronje. Cullinan's form is exceptional, with 75 in the Old Trafford Test and 200 not out here, the highest score on this ground. In addition, he made a hundred against Ireland on Sunday.

It was all the more surprising, then, that Gary Kirsten missed out, playing on to Betts in the fourth over for 13. Betts also had Cronje caught in the gully by Gough off a decent lifter that came off the shoulder of the bat. Betts and Steve Harmison, who will play here again in a fortnight for England Under-19 against Pakistan, put in a tremendous effort but they were simply forced into submission by a batsman of the highest class.

Gough and Jon Lewis survived seven overs from Durvald and Steve Elworthy, although Lewis was far from comfortable against the short ball.

Swann saves Northamptonshire

By JOHN THICKESSE

LEICESTER (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss; Leicestershire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 281 runs behind Northamptonshire)

GRAHAM GOOCH watched the morning's play at Grace Road and David Graveney, the chairman, the afternoon and the evening, and for both England selectors what they saw well repaid their journeys.

Alan Mullally, who maybe a candidate for the Test at Trent Bridge next week, gave Leicestershire a flying start by taking three wickets in his first six overs, and five of the first six, before Mal Loye and Graeme Swann entertained Graveney with a stand of impressive style and confidence considering it began

from 124 for six. Loye, 25, was playing only his fifth innings in first-class cricket since his 322 not out in May. Arriving in the fifth over, he alone of the top order handled Mullally without apparent trouble when the quick left-hander was at his most dangerous.

Warren and Sales had their off-stumps flattened, and Bailey was the victim of an astonishing catch at second slip by Simmons. Loye was nearly run out at 18, when Maddy shaved the stumps from cover, while at 24 he had the luck to see an edge off Lewis bisect Simmons and Habib in the slips. Otherwise he made no obvious mistake until in Maddy's first over, after 262 minutes at the crease, he edged a ball of little pace to second slip.

Well as Loye played, however, the innings of the day belonged to Swann, who at the age of 19 was playing only the eleventh first-class innings of his life. Fate smiled on him at four when with Simmons

temporarily off the field, he was missed overhead at second slip by Habib, who is several inches shorter.

That escape behind him, however, Swann might have been batting in conditions offering nothing to the bowlers, letting the bat flow freely as he scored at pace. He was beaten by Mills's bounce, having hit 14 fours and a six off 118 balls. Loye and Swann added 109 for the seventh wicket, and it turned the day.

Leicestershire lost three wickets in two brief spells of play, Rose and Malcolm dismissing Wells and Sutcliffe in successive overs, and on the resumption Maddy falling to a catch at second slip off a ball from Malcolm he tried to leave alone. Wells and Sutcliffe fell in successive overs by Rose and Malcolm before, at 41 for three bad light stopped play.

Walsh and Hancock seize control

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

CHELTEMPHAM (first day of four: Sussex won toss; Gloucestershire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 97 runs behind Sussex)

THE first day of the Cheltenham Festival was a profitable one for Gloucestershire, or it will have been if they bat sensibly today. On a slower pitch than is customary here, they dismissed Sussex for 191 and lost only three of their own wickets before the close. Hancock, who hit ten boundaries on his way to an attractive half-century, was still there at stumps on 60.

It was a very good day for the stalwarts of the side. Russell held the 700th first-class catch of his county career and Walsh, that magnificent warrior, who continues to draw blood, became the first

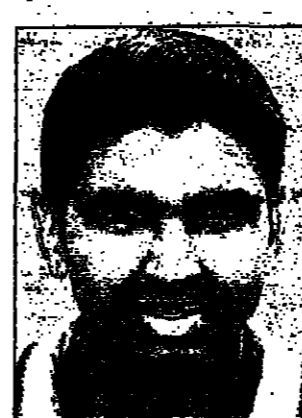
bowler this season to take 50 championship wickets. There were three in all for him, and three each for Smith and Lewis in a good all-round home performance.

There was nothing wrong with the pitch, and Hancock showed what fun batting could be as he launched the Gloucestershire reply with some lovely drives through cover. The Gloucestershire bowlers simply bowled fuller and straighter; in a word, better. They know the pitch, of course, which always helps, and will expect to win this match if the batsmen play a good hand.

Adams, who won the toss, chose to bat in the knowledge that last year, when he came to Cheltenham with Derbyshire, he bagged a pair. His duck yesterday, when he was the third of six men to be bowled, extends that unhappy

sequence. Three other players failed to score. It was not a particularly distinguished piece of batsmanship.

Khan, the left-handed opener, tried his best, completing a half-century before he perished in Walsh's post-lunch spell. Bevan, from whom one



Khan: top score for Sussex

expects good sense, fell three runs short of his own fifty and Martin-Jenkins struck the ball as cleanly as anybody in making 40. He was the last man out, caught at short leg when Walsh got fed up waiting for the final wicket.

Trainer went early in the Gloucestershire innings, leg-before to Lewry and clearly unhappy with himself. After that early wicket, the Sussex bowlers offered the batsmen plenty to hit and Hancock settled into his stride like a man who knows that Gloucestershire batsmen tend to make good scores at this festival.

"RMJ" had Hewson caught behind and Bevan, in his first over, saw Adams take a slip catch to dismiss Alleyne.

Sussex will need to strike early today to gain redemption to this show. Gloucestershire already have the scent of victory in their nostrils.

Solanki makes Lancashire pay for mistakes

By BARNEY SPENDER

LYTHAM (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss; Worcestershire have scored 261 for seven wickets against Lancashire)

WHEN the sun shines at Church Road, all is well with the world. The trees that ring the ground lend an air of old-world tranquility while the marquees and striped deckchairs are a reminder of the seaside delights on offer just down the road.

The greater the pity, therefore, that the thousand-strong crowd had to endure, not for the first time this summer, a day that was predominantly

dark, cold, windy and, for a 90-minute period in the afternoon, wet — the kind of conditions that can make Church Road as miserable as any ground in the world.

The Lancashire supporters who did brave the conditions also saw their side give away a wonderful chance of dismissing Worcestershire cheaply. Five dropped catches and a wicket of overthrows and wides contributed to an unsatisfying day in the field. There was, at least, some merit in the performance of Andrew Flintoff, 20, whose burgeoning reputation with the bat has already made him a candidate for a World Cup place next year. This time,

though, it was his medium-pace bowling, hindered recently by a back injury, that did the damage as he took three wickets — Hick, Moody and Leatherdale — in six overs to reduce Worcestershire to 142 for five.

The pick of these was, not surprisingly, Hick, who was batting in the knowledge that a big score would almost certainly guarantee him a place in the England middle order in the next Test. Hick survived a big shout for leg-before before he scored but looked in ominous form, reaching 34 in quick time. He fell to the last ball before lunch, Flintoff got one to move away and Hegg, who

finished the day with five catches, dived low to his right to catch the edge.

When Flintoff took the next two after lunch, Lancashire were excellently placed, but a sixth-wicket partnership of 79 between Vikram Solanki and Steve Rhodes held them at bay. Solanki played some delightful shots, but he needed some help from the fielders, surviving straightforward chances on 46 and 61, on his way to 87.

After a delay for rain, which cost 24 overs, Solanki soon edged to Hegg and moments after being divebombed by a pigeon that had been loitering in the covers, Rhodes, too, edged to the wicketkeeper.



Solanki: delightful

Committee concern over women members

THE attempts by Colin Ingleby-MacKenzie, the president of MCC, to steamroller the 17,500 members into electing women are being viewed with unease by officials of the club. The Times has discovered that, of the sub-committees consulted, only the marketing body had no reservations over their admission. MCC is seeking financial backing for its new hover cover, schools programme and cricket centre at Shenley. Obtaining sponsorship is an important aspect of the club's activities and the marketing sub-committee considers the election of women is important to how MCC is perceived in the business community.

Sign of times
To be appointed secretary of a county club was at one time considered a sinecure. No longer. Twelve years after joining Gloucestershire, after 18 years with the National

EXTRA COVER

Cricket Association. Philip August has been made redundant. A former minor counties cricketer and a most likeable official, he was told that "there had not been enough for him to do" after the appointment of a chief executive. August hopes to remain in the game.

Watch them win
There will be one opportunity to watch England win a Test this summer. A private, colour

film of the famous 1938 match at the Oval against Australia, including Len Hutton's innings of 364 and Don Bradman's departure from the field with a broken ankle, will be shown at the British Film Institute annual archive evening at the National Film Theatre of August 25.

Wellesley House in Kent, a school that has nurtured three England captains, has completed a notable double in the Prep School's knockout championships. The boys won the competition by beating Millfields Juniors while the girls were winning the rounders competition.

Ray Gallian
A memorial service in honour of Ray Gallian, who died in Australia in January, takes place at Cheddar Parish Church on July 20 at 11am. The father of Jason Gallian, the Nottinghamshire and for-

mer England batsman. Gallian Sr was a larger-than-life figure who retained links with Old Trafford after emigrating to Sydney.

French roots
The first written mention of cricket, or "criquet", occurs in a French manuscript of 1478 relating to a dispute between a spectator and player in the village of Lieures, near Calais. To celebrate recent promotion to associate member status with the International Cricket Council, the France national side took on Kent over-50s yesterday in the grounds of Lieures Castle.

Another addict
Nicholas de la Motte, 13, took eight wickets without conceding a run in a school game for Hurstpierpoint College against Stoke Brunswick. He took up cricket only in April after moving from New York

to become a boarder. "I am addicted to cricket now and would like to take it up as a career," he said.

Birthday wishes
Sir Donald Bradman made a rare appearance on Sydney radio to wish Sir Alec Bessler a happy 80th birthday. The conversation between the two former rivals was broadcast last Friday. "Alec has turned out to be the best friend I have in England," Bradman, 89, said. "He was the best medium-pace I ever faced."

Never too late
Harold Pepper has become an international umpire at the age of 92 after being persuaded to join the Long Lunch XI, a team based in Derbyshire, on their annual trip to France. He officiated against Monte Carlo and a side from Milan.

سكزامن الأصل

Evening start and family atmosphere draw encouraging crowd to Edgbaston

Cricket coming to terms with the future

ALAN LEE



Dennis Amis had more than the usual worries of the county chief executive last night. His attention was divided between the road outside Edgbaston, where a group of local residents were staging a demonstration, and the skies overhead, from where any strong wind could bring the evening's entertainment to an embarrassingly early end.



Hugh Bear entertains youngsters at Edgbaston yesterday as Warwickshire strive to cater for all ages at their evening Axa League match. Photograph: Graham Morris

Sunday attendance, it must be worthwhile. He might not have thought so if the forecast gusts had blown up. Musco, the American company contracted by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to install lights wherever needed this summer, said that winds of 30mph or more would mean the pylons must come down for safety reasons.

'Warwickshire remain eager to become the first county to stage a floodlit international match in England'

appeal to everyone. Many of those who live around Edgbaston are opposed to having their evenings disrupted and have persuaded the club to defer their planning application for permanent floodlights.

Sussex have a planning application due to be heard next month but, in the meantime, they are going ahead with their second experimental match against Middlesex next Monday. Their first was played on April 21, which was as crazy as it sounds.

When the season is over, the marketing committee of the ECB will review progress, assess the membership surveys of the counties involved and recommend the way forward. It is hard to see the notion being scrapped.

Warwickshire bowled an effectively niggling line, exemplified by the former Yorkshire seamer, Peter Hartley, whose eight overs yielded three for 24. At 69 for one, Warwickshire had the platform for a winning score to promote their title push until Hartley frustrated Brian Lara into an impetuous shot across the line and brought the first of four leg-before dismissals.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Henman on the way up

TENNIS: Tim Henman's ambition of reaching the top ten in the world rankings moved one step nearer yesterday when he was unveiled at No 12 in the latest ATP list.

SHOOTING: Stuart Collings, from Marlow Bucks, won the Hopton Cup match rifle championship at Bisley yesterday for the seventh time in eight years.

GOLF: David Inglis, 16, from Scotland, was crowned the junior Open champion at Forby yesterday.

HOCKEY: A new water-based artificial turf pitch, identical to the one used in the World Cup final in Utrecht, costing £500,000, is being laid at Havant College in time for the new season, which starts in October.

CRICKET: Jason Gallian, with 79, and Paul Strang, who made 53 not out, helped the Lord's Taverners to beat the Heartaches XI by 15 runs as they warmed up for Nottinghamshire's match against Yorkshire at the Scarborough Festival today.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with cricket scores for various matches including Vodafone Challenge Series, Lancashire v Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire v Somerset.

WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

Table with cricket scores for Warwickshire v Hampshire, including batting and bowling statistics.

SAILING

Ainslie enjoying the fruits of premier racing status

TWO years down the road from his superb silver medal in Lasers at the Atlanta Olympics and two years before he attempts to go one better in Sydney, Ben Ainslie is enjoying some of the fruits of his status as Great Britain's most talented young racing yachtsman.

FROM EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN CROSSHAVEN, CO CORK

when expectations of his performance are invariably high. "To be honest I am not totally sure what is expected of me," he said. "I'm never sure if I'm making enough of an input but luckily so far no one's ever said I'm not doing my job properly."

TENNIS

Hard work pays off for Cowan

BARRY COWAN beat Todd Larkham, of Australia, 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the LTA Manchester Challenger tournament at Didsbury yesterday.

Advertisement for 3Com U.S. Robotics 56k Message Modem, featuring text like 'The bad news?' and 'The good news?' and a phone number 0800 22 52 52.

FOOTBALL

Beckham returns to work under police protection

By David Maddock

AS SOON as the garage door at David Beckham's home in Worsley cranked open and a figure shrouded in black slipped from the shadows to dive into the passenger seat of a waiting Range Rover...

Beckham smiled coyly at questions hurled his way, but declined to answer. He was, perhaps, saving a response for the abuse that he would undoubtedly receive as soon as the dressing-room door opened...

this ridiculous fantasy that his childish actions have some great consequence.

His father spoke of the "lad" being forced out of the country. His manager pleaded for some space and time for the "lad".

It won't be according to his father. "He has made one mistake, and he has been slaughtered for it," Ted Beckham said.

It is a situation that has attracted the attention of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), which yesterday pleaded for supporters not to force Beckham to play abroad.



Beckham leads his team-mates in training yesterday



Palmer, left, Rolph and Foster model the new bodysuit that some swimmers believe gives them an edge. Photograph: Stephen Munday/Allsport

Putting the squeeze on in the fast lane

Craig Lord goes through physical and public agony to try out the latest sporting swimwear

When a company such as Adidas, a giant in a world sold on sporting merchandisers have been moved on to avoid the dangers of making an eye-catching all-over body swimsuit...

The heat generated by putting the suit on is, however, followed by instant relief: the compression of the Lycra Power material, with its Teflon properties, apes that enlivening sensation felt when plunging into a cold pool...

'The suit clings to the body like a second skin'

'Awareness of your stroke is heightened'

Neither grease nor powder is needed to help you to slide into the suit, but it helps if you are dry and skilled at pulling on tights. So small is the leg opening that I had to roll up the leg and pull the ankle opening wide apart to get it over my foot.

The changing room. The flattery of appearing to have a flat stomach is outweighed by the feeling of nakedness. I had imagined that flexibility of joints might be restricted, but once in the water, you are hardly aware of wearing anything.

buoyancy, caused in my case by tiny pockets of air. This, explained Christine Barth, of Adidas, was because I needed a suit two sizes smaller — a terrifying thought — for a really tight fit of the kind sought by the likes of Susan Rolph, Paul Palmer and Mark Foster...

Norman Sarsfield, chairman of the CGC, noted that Adidas had expressed no interest when asked to tender for making the Games suits.

The advantages claimed for the bodysuit by its developers are manyfold. They include a slowing-down of the heart rate, caused by the reduction in oscillation of muscles supported by the suit.

There seems to be little doubt that Adidas has a winner on its hands; swimmers do not wear suits that do not suit the job.

Ronaldo a fitting role model

Ronaldo's episode has been variously described as a fit, a convulsion or even a faint. In medical language, fits and convulsions are usually described as seizures; faints are different, although in certain circumstances a faint may be associated with a convulsion.

his fiancée. Who knows, perhaps he had even been disturbed by the revealing pictures and reminiscences of two former girlfriends in the News of the World. Emotional tension, as well as pre-match nerves, heightens stress, and stress is one of the factors which predisposes to seizures.

there is, of course, no evidence that Ronaldo was a heavy drinker. Conversely, some strong analgesics in a very large dose may actually induce a convulsion.

Judging from Ronaldo's story on the BBC World Service, the fit seems to have occurred on waking up. He was apparently worried lest he was going to swallow his own tongue and feared he might die.

Dr Ted Reynolds, Director of the Institute of Epileptology at King's College Hospital in London, said: "Ronaldo needn't have worried about swallowing his tongue. This is a myth which stems from the blue tinge to the patient's complexion when they have a seizure.

Bystanders only need to lie them on their side and all will be well. There is no need to force knife handles or knotted handkerchiefs between their teeth. None of these measures stop the tongue from being bitten, but it won't be swallowed.



MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent. Today's deal occurred in a local league game and contains an instructive point. Dealer South. North-South Game. IMPs.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent. Outstanding play. Today's games were those to which I awarded the two prizes for brilliance from the final of The Times British Schools Championship.

LACROSSE England set sights on bronze

THE mighty shadow of American lacrosse again looms over England in the men's world championship, which starts in Baltimore tomorrow (Peter Tatlow writes).

RUGBY UNION RFU denies spying allegation

THE Rugby Football Union last night categorically denied allegations that England had secretly filmed a private New Zealand training session before the first international in Dunedin last month.

after the defeat by Australia in Melbourne. Hart, who has exonerated Australia of similar tactics before the Bledisloe Cup match, has made three encounters with South Africa in Wellington next week.



Hart deflecting criticism?

By Philip Howard. DVORNIK a. Swedish shoes b. A German clown c. House porter. EXLEX a. A false eye b. Outside the law c. A divorcee. GIMBRI a. A mineral b. A small guitar c. Malaysian deer. FASCIOIA a. A fax machine b. A small, yellow flower c. A layer of the brain. Answers on page 46.

By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from Silveira - Trindade, Brasilia, 1998. Three pieces are normally more than a match for a rook, but here the white rooks are running riot while the black forces are scattered around the board. How did White win quickly? Solution on page 46.

TOMORROW'S MATCHES: Scotland v Japan; Germany v Czech Republic; Sweden v Wales; Australia v Tonga; Netherlands v Canada v England.



SAILING 43

Ainslie relishes the challenge of guest appearance in Cork

SPORT

CYCLING 46

Heppner sprints to victory as Tour reaches French soil



WEDNESDAY JULY 15 1998

Testing times for game's officials

Umpires hope to shame cricket cheats

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE leading umpires of the cricket world spoke as one yesterday, united in condemnation of what they consider the most insidious threat to the conduct and image of the game. With unprecedented candour, the umpires denounced many modern Test match players as cheats.

This militant mood emerged after a weekend conference of the National Grid international umpires panel in Surrey and reflects their growing resentment over the way players seek to gain advantage by unfair pressure. Gamesmanship, displayed by orchestrated appealing, non-walking batsmen and the claiming of catches not clearly taken, dominated discussion and the umpires were free with their opinions yesterday.

Peter Willey, who umpired the recent Test match at Old Trafford, said: "It is time fingers were pointed at the players who are trying to cheat. Mervyn Kitchen, who will officiate in the fourth Test at Trent Bridge next week, described the atmosphere in international games as "a cauldron". And there was an emotional warning from Steve Bucknor, the respected West Indian umpire.

"The emphasis is to win, win, win at all costs," Bucknor said. "Appeals are planned and they think if they make enough noise they will force the umpire, who is only human, into a mistake. It's not good for the game, it's not correct. In actual fact, I call it cheating."

Umpires have suffered in silence as this on-field behaviour has become ever more prevalent, ever more coordinated. Yesterday, gathered together in a hotel near Lord's, their words and expressions told of a view that the trend must be halted. "I

think we are hearing some very honest views today," Kitchen said. "As a group, we're pretty unhappy with the way things are heading."

"It's a different game from when I started umpiring. I see very little difference in a batsman walking off when he has nicked one to the wicketkeeper than if he has hit it to cover, but nobody walks now."

"It's like a cauldron in Test cricket and it is calculated to make the job of umpiring even harder. Close fielders are going up for a catch when they know very well it isn't out, and that is cheating."

Willey related that he had set the tone when the umpires convened at Frimley Park by addressing the officers of the International Cricket Council in attendance. "I stood up when the conference began and said they had got 20 of us there who all tried to do the job honestly. I wondered if they intended to bring in all the players who deliberately made it more difficult."

"There is very little we umpires can do about this other than draw attention to it. Only if the newspapers and television focus on the games-



Kitchen: falling standards

manship of the players rather than on any errors made by the umpires will we stop the conduct of the game getting worse."

Different umpires called to mind different instances of gamesmanship and all are aware that they face dozens of concerted appeals during a game. Two episodes that caused particular concern, however, involved the England captain, Alec Stewart — first when he successfully claimed a slip catch, apparently taken on the half-volley, in Barbados in March, and then when he was the victim of such a "catch" by Min Patel during a Benson and Hedges Cup match in May.

Willey recalled raising the subject of orchestrated appealing with a senior England player. "I asked him why they did it," Willey said, "and he replied that it was because every other team did it to them. What a sorry state of affairs."

"I was criticised for giving Mark Ramprakash out at Old Trafford a fortnight ago but I told him the following day that I would make the same decision again because I believed he had hit it. If there was as much attention given to shaming players for their outrageous appeals, we might just improve the look of the game."

Bucknor is in a unique position to appreciate the demands on sporting officials, having also taken his football refereeing career to the level of a World Cup match between El Salvador and Holland. He has watched on television while the referees in France were subjected to a tournament of divers and fakers and he feels there is a direct comparison with the behaviour of modern cricketers. "I think the referees did well but there was a human element there and not everything was seen," he said. "There will always be players seeking to take advantage and in cricket, like football, it has got very much worse."

Bucknor, who is also uneasy about the undermining effect on umpires of the giant video screens at Test grounds, told of a wicketkeeper in the West Indies who was recently told he would lose his place in his island's first-class team if he did not join his close fielders in every contrived appeal. "He knew it was wrong but, to stay in the side, he went along with it. I only hope his conscience gets the better of him."

"It's my duty to do as much as I can to prevent cricketers beating the system but I am deeply saddened by some of the things I see now."

Sri Lanka suffer, page 42
Cullinan rampage, page 42
Under lights, page 43



Westwood looks bemused after dislodging a large amount of rough rather than his ball during practice yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Westwood takes rough with smooth

By Mel Weiss

THE temperature went up slightly at Royal Birkdale yesterday, both meteorologically and temperamentally, on the two golf courses that will be put to use in the days ahead: the 7,018 yards between the 1st tee and 18th green and the six inches or so between players' ears. As the time for action grew ever closer, hopes grew in direct proportion to the fear that began to burrow its way unbidden into the psyche of the combatants. The Open Championship is no place for the faint-hearted.

Birkdale is no place, either, for self-doubt. Golf on British links courses will always provide its frustrations, and the way with which they are dealt will play a crucial part in who succeeds and who does not. Given that, it was an intriguing experience to observe the demeanour of two young men whose countries on either side of the Atlantic expect much of them.

In no other area but interna-

tional sport is so much responsibility thrust upon the shoulders of the young. They will be playing for themselves, these youthful protagonists, but in a powerful way they will be playing for their countries, too. How different are the methods they use to manage the pressure.

Tiger Woods is the world No 1 and, in spite of his tender years, recognises the responsibility of being in so elevated a position in the global pecking order. He is scarcely more than a boy, but has the gravitas of a much older man: 22 going on 37.

Lee Westwood, whose rise to seventh place in the world rankings was confirmed on Monday after his victory in the Standard Life World Invitational, in the rain and wind of Loch Lomond, is, contrastingly, so relaxed that it sometimes seems a challenge for him to prevent himself from falling out of his chair. Nothing he has yet encountered has been enough to shake him out of the equable, almost casual

attitude he presents to the world.

He was in typical form on this day. "I would dearly love to win, but it's not life and death," he said. "I'm not afraid of losing, either. If I don't win the Open this year, it won't be the end of the world with me. It's only a game, at the end of the day." Here was a man

Round with Montgomerie 44
Rose waits to bloom 44
Reluctant Hoch 44
Tee-off times 44

1997, four would be enough for 1998. Woods has received death threats before from the less hinged of the world. It will be a long time, the feeling went, before Westwood would feel the need to employ a detachment of heavies.

The way that the two favourites for the championship chose to spend last week also spoke volumes about their characters. Woods, bouncers in tow, spent a few days in Ireland with his friend and on-tour surrogate brother, Mark O'Meara, playing golf and fishing. Westwood, who loves nothing better than the whiff of cordite in his nostrils, spent the last four days of the week beating the ears off the opposition by the wet and inclement banks of Loch Lomond.

Time will tell which was the more effective method of preparation. That they are ready for the battle ahead, each in his own way at peace with himself and the state of his game, is obvious. For the present, they have nothing

more pressing to attend to than the last 24 hours of comparative peace before the crowds descend. When they do, they will be on show; there is nothing quite like 5,000 people around a green to aerate the competitive juices.

Woods spent his golfing time in the company of Lee Janzen, John Cook and — inevitably — O'Meara, who is likely to be one of the standard bearers for the older generation in this championship. O'Meara has the unusual credential in this Open field of having had a victory at Birkdale — he won the Lawrence Barley International in 1987 — and, for good measure, was also joint third in the 1991 Open.

It is a record that nobody else in the field can quite boast and it might serve O'Meara well in the coming days. Local knowledge is a valuable thing on any golf course — on an Open Championship layout it might, just might, mean the difference between victory and defeat.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4
5 6 7
8 9
10 11 12
13
14 15
16 17
18 19
20

No 1458

- ACROSS**
- 5 Incessantly (3,2,3,4)
 - 8 Feed up (for market) (6)
 - 9 Prosper (6)
 - 10 Restless desire (4)
 - 12 Strands in dusty corners (7)
 - 14 Charm: delude (7)
 - 15 Part of car: Lebanon port (4)
 - 17 Well-behaved (6)
 - 18 Portable steps (6)
 - 20 Coloured window material (7,5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Milton epic (8,4)
 - 2 Oversupply (4)
 - 3 Inflammation by nail (7)
 - 4 Progress in reverse (strip) (8)
 - 6 Welcome discovery (4)
 - 7 No-fixed-date event (7,5)
 - 11 Image of Cross (8)
 - 13 Personal paper (7)
 - 16 A pest: a pellet (4)
 - 19 Haul: type of trout (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1457

ACROSS: 1 Calcutta 5 Page 7 Over the moon 8 Date 9 Gnomon 10 Abased 15 Own 14 Naevus 17 Discus 18 Slab 19 Walter Mitty 20 Crux 21 Suspense

DOWN: 1 Cardigan 2 Cove 3 Tyrannosaurus 4 Aches and pains 5 Pamela 6 George 7 Ouse 11 Sicily 12 Disabuse 15 Au pair 16 Vertex 18 Style

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PAR EXCELLENCE: HOW WESTWOOD AND WOODS COMPARE

Lee Westwood (GB) age 25			Tiger Woods (US) age 22		
Tournament	Position	Prize-money	Tournament	Position	Prize-money
Australian Open	1st	£71,230	Western Open	1st	\$220,000
Loch Lomond Invitational*	1st	£141,600	BullSouth Classic	1st	\$197,961
English Open	1st	£108,330	Johnnie Walker Classic	1st	\$136,012
Freeport McDermott Classic	1st	£188,585	Nissan Open	2nd	£138,290
Deutsche Bank Open	1st	£183,340	Mercedes Championship	2nd	\$91,219
			Sattek Invitational	2nd	\$66,585

1998 earnings: £591,085
Career earnings: £2,712,683
Ryder Cup record: Played five rubbers, won two, lost three

1998 earnings: \$849,867
Career earnings: \$2,835,366
Ryder Cup record: Played five rubbers, won one, halved one, lost three

No heroes' welcome for Brazil

By Russell Kempson

FOUR years ago, Brazil returned home from the World Cup finals as champions. An ecstatic crowd of 40,000 greeted them and the squad was whisked through the airport terminal without having to declare dozens of containers of newly acquired electrical equipment. Yesterday, only 3,000 fans turned up to welcome the World Cup runners-up and the squad suffered further indignity by having to pass through customs.

Mario Zagallo, the coach, and his players were taken by bus to Government House in Brasilia, where they were received by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and presented with a national merit award. The Brazilian media was not so forgiving of the 3-0 defeat against France in St-Denis, particularly of Ronaldo having played when manifestly unfit.

Zagallo and Lidio Toledo, the team doctor, were heavily criticised. "They committed the most heinous, howling and unjustifiable mistake of their lives," *Correio Braziliense* declared in a front-page

editorial. *O Globo* reported that Zagallo would be dismissed and replaced by Wanderlei Luxemburgo, the coach of Corinthians.

Ronaldo appeared to be limping after leaving the aircraft and is expected to undergo a series of medical tests when he arrives at his parents' home in Rio de Janeiro. Confusion still surrounds the explanation for his poor display

against France, with theories ranging from a knee injury to psychological problems, and he will take a three-week holiday before returning to Internazionale, his Italian club, next month.

"He has been in touch with us since the final," an Inter spokeswoman said yesterday. "He spoke with our doctor and said everything was OK. We know that he wasn't well

during the afternoon before the final — it was similar to fainting — and our doctor said that the reason for this could be stress. We are not that worried; he is a very well balanced boy."

Fifa, football's world governing body, said that Ronaldo, 21, would have to learn to cope with his high-profile existence. "If you play in the World Cup, you must expect to come under a certain amount of stress," Keith Cooper, Fifa's director of communications, said. "Brazil has responsible doctors and if there was any danger to his health, I'm sure they would not have played him."

Professor Cary Cooper, a leading British sports psychologist, said: "The first thing is to check that Ronaldo's illness was not organic, but you can have a mild fit if you are put under enormous pressure. The pressures on him going into the final were huge. We're placing so many demands on our sports stars that it is getting ridiculous. We're going to kill them off if we're not careful."

England and champions share fair-play prize

ENGLAND are the joint winners with France, the hosts and champions of the 1998 Fifa World Cup fair-play award, with Norway taking third place (Russell Kempson writes). They averaged 826 points during the tournament and will each collect a trophy, diploma, medals and £5,000 worth of equipment for youth football, which will be presented at a gala evening in Barcelona in January.

Although the Football Association was delighted with the award, it may wonder why

England did not win outright. France had three players sent off — Zidane, Blanc and Desailly — while England had only one, David Beckham.

However, the fair-play title — adjudicated by the match delegate and match official at each game — also takes into account the behaviour of supporters and squad members on the substitutes' bench. The conduct of Glenn Hoddie, the England coach, and his assistants will have been included in the equation.

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

SUDAN EMERGENCY APPEAL

Over one million people in southern Sudan are facing the real threat of starvation. The war has forced people from their homes and land and two years of drought have devastated crops. Médecins Sans Frontières medical teams are running nutrition centres in the worst-affected areas, feeding the most vulnerable, especially children and their mothers. Malnourished people need special feeding mixes, containing vital nutrients. Our teams care for the most severe cases around the clock. MSF is also providing seeds to help people provide for themselves in future. The only long-term solution to the southern Sudan tragedy is peace. But we can't sit back and wait — people need your help now.

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